JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
Milton.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forme of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XCVII. No. 709. Week ending Saturday, January 3rd, 1920. Twopence.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

[illegible] Year!

[illegible] all the signs and portents which at [illegible] clouded the horizon, we feel justified in [illegible] see through all our troubles, and [illegible] to our readers the prospect of a [illegible]gy and Prosperous New Year. At any [illegible] we will hazard the wish!

We are afraid Mr. Lloyd George's latest effort will not carry us an inch further on the road to a solution of the Irish problem. Indeed, the latest Sinn Fein outrage is the best commentary on the futility of all the attempts of the politicians.

The [illegible] Valley Election.

Whatever be the result of this contest, our recent article fairly "set the cat amongst the pigeons." And in an inspired Press rejoinder we were reminded of the result of our first encounter with Sir John Simon in the Courts. But nothing was said about the second!

"Taking Off the Whips"!

After all we have learnt as to what went on behind the scenes in connection with the "free debate" on Premium Bonds, we warn the public never to be gulled again when, as in this case, the Government has strong views of its own on the subject under discussion.

Unclaimed Bank Balances.

We hope we shall be acquitted of all responsibility for the egregious Report of the Select Committee on Dormant Bank Balances and Unclaimed Securities, to which we were no party, and the circumstances attending the publication of which we shall have something to say about in our next issue.

An Unthinkable Lottery.

Our attention has been called to a "Prize Drawing for a Framed Pastel Portrait of a Noted Working-Class Advocate," promoted under the auspices of the Liverpool and District Council for Independent Working-Class Education, and we are told that the "Noted Working-Class Advocate" is none other than the notorious Lenin. It is true that the tickets are only threepence each, but the money would be better spent on a glass of beer.

Anarchy Unashamed.

We have also had our attention drawn to the programme of a concert and dance "to be held at the Crown Hall, Redman's Road, E., on Saturday, January 17th, 1920," under the auspices of "the Anarchist Propaganda Group"—one of the features being the "Herald League" Quadrille Band—the final item of the programme consisting of "*L'Internationale*." Perhaps Mr. Shortt would like to drop in.

Old Age Pensions.

It was a happy idea to secure a unanimous House for increased pensions—but *couldn't* they have come into force in time for Christmas?

Unmuzzle the Dogs.

There have been no cases of rabies for the past three months, and we are now in the depths of winter. But the Muzzling Order is not to come off till the end of January! Poor dogs!

Quite True!

A reader tells us that on a recent Wednesday he overheard the following conversation: "They say the end of the world is to be to-day"—to which came the rejoinder, "I don't believe it; there's nothing in JOHN BULL about it!"

FOR THIS WEEK ONLY.

£500

MUST BE WON

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

or next largest number of Winning Teams in the 1st Round for the Football Association Cup.

For Free Entrance Coupon see page iii. of Cover.

Lords and Aliens.

We much regret that a bad cold prevented us from being in the House when the Lords' amendments to the Aliens Bill came up for consideration. We should have had a few words to say about Lord Parmoor and his dear brethren Hun.

Labour's Day Coming.

There can be no question, in view of the result of recent Bye-Elections, that people are turning despairingly to the Labour Party as the only alternative to the present Coalition Government. We still, however, venture to doubt the probability of Mr. Jack Jones and his friends coming into power within the lifetime of the present generation.

Parisian Piffle.

Someone has sent us a copy of the *Western Daily Mercury* containing the report of a sermon by the Rev. Donald Fraser, of Exeter, in which—having chuckled over the defeat of our Premium Bond proposal—he proceeds to lament the presence of Royalty at the recent Carpentier-Beckett boxing contest. The rev. gentleman was Labour Candidate for Tiverton at the last election. Now we know why [illegible] than a quarter of the [illegible] his successful opponent.

Cruelty to Animals.

In view of the ever-increasing number of cases of this kind coming before the Courts, we are seriously contemplating the introduction of a short Bill in Parliament to empower magistrates to inflict corporal punishment.

The Secret of Us.

According to the *New Commonwealth*, the secret of any powers we may possess is that we have no negative side—our "sentiments, sins and soarings are all positive." So are the assertions of our contemporary.

Wanted, a British Champion.

It is a pity that the war interfered with the boxing career of Young Ahearn—"John Bull's Boy." We still think he is the only likely British champion we have seen since Carpentier came on the scene—*and so does Carpentier.*

Quite Correct.

"I am told," says the Ven. H. E. J. Bevan, Archdeacon of Middlesex, "that the religious studies of the masses of our working men who claim to be thoughtful seekers after truth are mostly confined to the pages of JOHN BULL." It is the "thoughtfulness" which explains it.

Are Victory Bonds Illegal?

In view of the decision of the Law Officers of the Crown that dealings on the Stock Exchange in French Premium Bonds would constitute an offence under the Lottery Acts, we propose to take steps to ascertain whether the same principle does not apply to the Government's Victory Bonds of £100 each, issued at £85, with annual drawings for payment off at £100. What a nation of hypocrites we are!

"G.B.S." Again.

That pernicious person George Bernard Shaw is at his old games again, giving utterance in print—and in the [illegible] too, of [illegible] recent enemy, to base [illegible] on Br[illegible] policy. And at the sa[illegible] money from the Brit[illegible] of one of his plays. [illegible] was put to his will

Medical Neglect.

We are const[illegible] the refusal of [illegible] urgent calls, o[illegible] who may be [illegible] panel." T[illegible] by "

Local Limerick.

(*A member of the Willesden Board of Guardians offered to supply a drink of beer at Christmas to the workhouse inmates, but a majority of the Board refused the offer.*)

There once were some Guardians queer,
Who for paupers banned Xmastide cheer;
Teetotalers, their task
Was to bung up the cask,
And so the poor folk got no beer.

The Age of Sacrifice.

There are still good souls with hearts that bleed for others. Here is one sweet Samaritan:—"Lady will sacrifice dwg. rms., unfur., 50s. per week; with or without use kit.; to quiet people; no children or dogs. Premium required. Owner, 114, St. James Ter., Warwick Cres., W.2." The spirit of sacrifice is most lovable when it flashes from unexpected quarters, and here we have it in a lady advertising for lodgers. She says so herself.

An Irritating Impost.

We are at a loss to understand why a "transfer fee" of 2s. should be demanded from demobilised soldiers who wish to resume their former standing under the National Health Insurance Act. In the aggregate, these fines—for that is really what they are—must amount to an enormous sum, and we shall be greatly surprised if any real justification can be shown for an irritating exaction often demanded with the grossest incivility. Perhaps Dr. Addison will explain.

The "Steerage" Scandal.

We have received an extensively-signed "round robin," complaining of the miserable quality of the third-class accommodation on board the R.M.S. *Scandinavian*. Folks who in these hard times are compelled to travel "steerage" do not expect private swimming-baths or *recherché* banquets, but they do look for food that is eatable and sanitary arrangements which are compatible with health and decency. The neglect of these elementary requirements is a scandal that ought not to be tolerated.

"Programme, Sir?"

A Clapham man suggests that, instead of talking about raising the price of seats, theatrical managers had better start talking about decreasing the price of programmes. "The sixpenny programme in the West-end theatres and music halls," he exclaims, "is the most audacious bit of profiteering in the whole realm of that pernicious art. Seeing the price the proprietor gets for his advertisements, the programme ought to be given away—and until it is given away, or nearly, I would advise people to leave the sixpenny programme to the patronage of millionaires and fools."

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Bow-Wow-Wow!

Our bow-wows [illegible]n't had a merry Christmas but they seem to be on the threshold of a happy new year. What a hallelujah chorus of barking there will be the morning we take them for a run with their muzzles off!

"Let Glasgow Flourish."

From the *Glasgow Herald*:—"Clerk wanted for accountant's office; 20s. per week; elderly man would suit." A box-number follows, because that benevolent accountant is shy and hides his light under a bushel, where his head ought to be. "An elderly man would suit"—but not for long, for his suit would soon be a wooden one.

Salute!

Still another soldier—this time a corporal of the Army of the Rhine—while he quite agrees that everyone should salute the Whitehall Cenotaph as a voluntary act of reverence, objects to compulsion being put on soldiers to do so. Compulsory saluting was very much overdone during the war. It became an infliction on Tommies, at any rate, and presumably they are now fed up with it.

"DEUTSCHLAND" EXHIBITION

Although the German super-submarine "Deutschland" is till lying in the Thames off the Temple, arrangements are being completed for a coastal tour. Youngsters on holiday and visitors to London desirous of inspecting her wonderful mechanism should therefore not delay. A steam launch leaves Charing Cross Pier every half hour, the fullest arrangements being made to ensure protection against inclement weather.

A great variety of souvenirs, etc., is available, although, owing to difficulties in manufacture, a few are temporarily out of stock. A catalogue can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Victory Club, 26, King Street, St. James's, S.W.1.

The Allotted Span.

Allotment-holders at Clapham have a great many nasty things to say about their treatment, or rather maltreatment, by the L.C.C. They affirm that when they took over the plots they were definitely assured of possession, until at least two years after the signing of peace. Though they have paid rent up to next March, the L.C.C. insist on clearing them out at once; indeed, we doubt whether all of them are not off the ground at this moment. It is a very arbitrary and indefensible shunting if the L.C.C. gave the undertaking alleged. German Governments and British County Councils ought equally to honour their bond.

Woe and Wages.

Pity the Rev. James Griffiths, a curate of 74 years, employed at Denaby Main in Yorks, now in the Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Griffiths has never had more than £4 a week in his life; at present his wage is £3, out of which he has to pay £2 for board and lodging and contribute to the maintenance of his aged wife and a daughter. In 1916 he had to borrow from a money-lender, his only creditor. He borrowed in all £92; he has re-paid £115 15s; and according to the money-lender, still owes £85 18s. 11d. on account of interest and law costs. The Church is one of the richest institutions in the world, it is a ghastly scandal that she should pay sts such wages to bring on them such

Where They Flourish.

Evidently there are plenty of Germans in Canada, and they lift their heads boldly and unashamed. This advert. occurs in an Ontario newspaper:—"Grocery clerk wanted, steady job, state salary, and must be German. Apply Wettlaufer's Department Store, Waterloo, Ont." Nothing about hiding disgrace under a bush in that, is there? But the Store must be confident of the sentiments of the people of Waterloo, Ont.

A New Pension.

Evidently some new pension scales are revising—as well as all the old ones. Co[illegible] this. An old lady, 60, has been mistress several Church of England schools in the Country. Her certificated record is 36 mostly as head, but she started before as an assistant. She has recently been pens[illegible] off on less than £23 a year. It must be that she also received a lump sum [illegible] and we guess she could do with it—"pension" is unmentionable.

The Lowest Depth!

We nearly ought to apologise to Edi[illegible] for quoting that case of a married [illegible] offered as little as 4s. 3d. a week for looking after a flat. An old soldier in London assures us he was offered a temporary job for himself and wife by a local Exchange. Wife was to be cook, and he to look after some boys and be generally useful in a clergyman's family, seven days a week. Fare to and from the job would be paid, "good food," and no wages! That beats Edinburgh to a frazzle.

Lime Water in Walbrook.

Walbrook Pharmacies, Ltd., 30, Walbrook, E.C., seem to be running well in the profiteering stakes. The price-list of a well-known wholesale firm quotes lime-water at 1s. a gallon; selling it retail in bottles, Walbrook's have the conscience to extort £2 a gallon for it. They had the usual "mistake" yarn pat for the City Tribunal, but the Chairman practically told 'em to tell it to the marines. The actual penalty against them was just the old, old fooling. All they have to pay is a refund of 8d.

The Labourer and His Hire.

Mr. Edward Robson, farmer, of Wantage, writes an explanatory letter. He says no class of labourer is now so well paid as farm labourers, though he agrees none has been paid so badly. "But how were we to pay more, when we had to sell wheat at 20s. a quarter, oats at 14s., and other cereals in proportion?" Even now, he complains, farmers have no guarantee that their present prices will not go down more than half, and then how are present wages to be paid? We must see what we can do about starting another nice war.

Camera Fakes.

Nothing will convince some people that spirit photographs, or "psychographs," are fakes. Spiritualism is, however, full up with fakes and fakers, and spirit photographs and spirit photographers are simply part of the plant. Any competent amateur photographer can photograph ghosts; it's as easy as shelling peas. In the way of lying, indeed, there is scarcely anything photography can't do. You can be "taken" playing cards with yourself in two places, carrying your own head on a charger, standing erect in a medicine bottle, wearing two heads instead of one, and in many other extraordinary ways. Extraordinary, that is to say, to everyone who doesn't know how it is done.

professional [illegible] abo[illegible]
the firm

Limerick.

Porton, near Salisbury, is a secret camp. (The War Office filled it with animals, presumably experiments with poison gas.)

There's a Camp where no civvy may pass;
It's supposed that they test poison gas;
They try it on cats,
Dogs, monkeys, and rats—
But they don't risk the War Office ass.

Dirty Nests.

Queensferry is a pretty busy place, and contains plenty of people—numbers of families living in two rooms, if they can get as many. There are at Mancott Royal, a short distance away, some houses, and have been for some time, twenty unoccupied houses. The Clerk to the Flintshire County Council said there was no proof that the tenancies of these houses had lapsed. The Council should lapse them, promptly, before the fine weather birds return to those dirty nests.

"Quality of the Mercy."

The Liverpool Corporation has made a great effort to be good. It has ordered inquiry to be made to ascertain if it is employing on its staff disabled men amounting to the stipulated five per cent. Liverpool intends, it seems, to make that figure the maximum and not the minimum, as it was intended to be. We learn, also, that some ex-Service men working for the Corporation are paid 5s. a week less than others doing exactly similar work. We doubt if all this be just, but we are sure it is not generous.

A Red Flagger.

Two extracts:—"A new departure in local political propaganda has been made by the Evesham Labour Party in the form of Sunday evening meetings. Mr. F. Saunders presided, supported by . . . Mr. R. Aldington . . . The meeting opened with the singing of 'The Red Flag.'" Same journal:—"The following have been appointed Magistrates for the County of Worcester:— . . . Robert Aldington, Offenham Cross, Evesham." He will not, of course, open Petty Sessions with "The Red Flag," after taking the oath of loyalty as J.P.

Buying a Gun.

It was a lady who wanted to buy the gun—not a very deadly weapon, but only an air-gun for her little boy. The price was 4s. 3d.; ammunition 6d. Off hied she to one of the big shops, and was told yes, she could have the gun. But, in these days of warfare and upheaval, she must produce for it a special permit. She might get that on application to the military authorities at Hounslow; for they might grant it after receiving a satisfactory report from the police of her parish. We are a slow and cautious people, sometimes.

A Case for Assistance.

"You might have shown him a little sympathy," was the remark addressed by the chairman of the Torpoint (Devon) Bench to a local farmer, named John Henry Steer, who applied for an Ejectment Order against George Jones, a poor fellow terribly injured in the war. It appears that the plight of the ex-soldier, who had a wife and three children depending upon him, had enlisted the sympathies of the police, although not of the farmer—who had no use for a partially disabled man and wanted the cottage for a more active labourer. Finally, the Magistrates granted Jones a month to find another home and a "light job" within his physical powers. Surely this battered war hero will not search in vain?

What Wantage Wants.

A publican in the Wantage district has received notice from the District Council that, if a fire occurs in his parish, horses will have to be sent to draw the fire engine and appliances, "otherwise it will be doubtful whether the brigade will be able to attend, owing to the difficulty in obtaining horses here." Wantage people now know what to do if they don't want the town to go to blazes.

A Foul Slander.

In the ordinary way, we are all for "the liberty of the Press," but it is a question whether this sort of thing ought not to be stopped: In order to discredit the anti-Bolshevist forces, the *Workers' Dreadnought*—an extreme Socialist journal—publishes an alleged statement from a Russian correspondent, containing the following allusion to the methods of the Allied Armies:—"The Italians specialise in flogging and violation of women, the Japanese in pillaging, and the English in both." If there is a dying kick left in the much-abused "Dora," it should be employed to chastise the blackguardly authors of this foul aspersion upon our gallant troops.

A Tactless Appeal.

It is, no doubt, an excellent thing to raise a War Memorial in the Llantrisant (Glam.) Parish Church, at a cost of £160, but it does not seem quite nice to dun discharged soldiers for subscriptions, inviting them to pay up and look pleasant "as a thankoffering for a safe return home." It has to be remembered that many of these good fellows are in difficult circumstances, and to men impoverished through patriotism these "special appeals" have the quality of an insult. In short, if Llantrisant cannot raise £160 without badgering the men who have "done their bit," it had better go without its War Memorial. There is no more to say.

START THE NEW YEAR WELL.
USE A "JOHN BULL" PEN.
See page 18.

The Course of Nature.

The kindness of women towards women at certain important junctures is proverbial. But there are exceptions. The wife of a man who has taken for six months a furnished half-house at Brighton has received this from the owner: "I hope you are making arrangements elsewhere for your expected confinement, my small flat being so unsuitable and my tenants"—a mother and daughter—"alarmed, as they are expecting gentlemen guests." Well, the lady who is "expecting" just one little visitor does not propose to clear out because two unkind females are "alarmed."

"Let 'em All Come!"

As a result of a recent judgment of Mr. Justice Sankey, the Government have decided, such is the report, to place no restrictions on imports pending their appeal to the House of Lords. On the face of things, the Crown's Legal Advisers had bungled their intentions badly. Deciding to prohibit imports by proclamation, they relied on a section of a Customs Act of 1876, referring to "arms, ammunition, gunpowder, or any other goods." "But no," says Mr. Justice Sankey, "'any other goods' doesn't mean any other goods, but any other goods of similar class." It is one of the "nice sharp quillets of the law" beloved of the lawyers.

A Vanished "Tenner."

The Money Order Department of the G.P.O. is wonderful at finding excuses for not disgorging cash it has swallowed. To a prisoner of war in Turkey £10 was sent in 1916. It never arrived. The official correspondence regarding it is choice of its kind. But it all arrives at the same end, namely, that the matter was placed in the hands of the Swiss P.O., that the Swiss P.O. was slow, and that, as it had ceased to be concerned, the British P.O. could repay nothing. That was the position in 1916; that is the position in 1920. What a slow P.O. it is—the Swiss one, of course!

Homes for Mothers.

If the scheme of Dr. Higgins, Medical Officer of St. Pancras, materialises, unmarried, deserted, and widowed mothers who have to win their daily bread in the world will by and by have homes of their own in a hostel, where their children will be taken care of while they are at work. As matters now are, these working mothers have to put their infants out to nurse, or leave them at some distant *creche* in the morning and fetch them out in the evening. The idea is admirable. We hope it will receive support in St. Pancras Council, so that other boroughs may be encouraged to develop it.

"Miss Sherlock Holmes."

Bermondsey doesn't mean to rely on casual effort to catch its profiteers, who will presently be up against Miss—or is it Mrs.?—Sherlock Holmes, appointed a few days ago at a salary of £4 a week. The appointment was opposed by a member of the local Council on the ground that every tradesman would know her in a very little while, and would be on his guard. This won't follow if she is up to snuff, for possible disguises are many. Even if the identity of the lady does leak out in shopland, the fact that Mrs. Sherlock Holmes is about will enable her to earn her salary in moral effect.

Hay Ho!

Messrs. Verney Brothers, of Dorking, are anxious to reveal to us who are the hay profiteers. "Dear Sirs," runs a postcard sent to them by a local farmer, "I have about 5 or 6 tons of 1918 good hay. If you were this way perhaps you could call and look at it. I want to make about £18 per ton of it." To show a dealer any profit on this price, £20 would have to be charged to a consumer in London—covering 5s. carting to station, 16s. pressing and cord, 11s. present rail rate (to be increased shortly) and 8s. profit. As soon as the farmer hears about this, we expect he will write proving that at £18 a ton he is scarcely making enough to buy a hair-cut.

Autocracy in Whitehall.

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CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To the Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

DEAR LORD CURZON,—Without wishing to be unduly inquisitive, I should be glad to have a word as to the progress of our friend O'Grady's "mission" to Copenhagen, and the prospects of the unfortunate British prisoners still in the hands of the Bolshevists. I am aware, of course, that as regards the Foreign Office there is special force in the adage which tells us what we shall not be told if we refrain from asking questions, but, if there are any items of truthful information of which you can ease yourself without embarrassment, I shall be glad to receive same in course of post. As it is, the country is a prey to all manner of uneasy speculation, not unmixed with the gravest anxiety for the fate of the unfortunate captives. So let us hear from you soon.

JOHN BULL.

To Inspector Reynolds, "E" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

DEAR INSPECTOR,—When you allowed a pint of your blood to be transferred to the veins of a patient at St. Thomas's Hospital suffering from shock and hæmorrhage, you did not "blow" about it at all, and it was only by chance that the circumstances were made public. Nevertheless, it was a kindly Christian act, for which you deserve credit. The likelihood is that by your timely sacrifice you saved the life of the patient as truly as if you had pulled him out of the Thames or dragged him from under a motor-bus. I trust you are none the worse for the experiment, and that the blood you have left is sufficient for your immediate requirements. If not, drop me a postcard and I will see what can be done.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. F. C. Bellinger, Clerk in Holy Orders.

"REVEREND" SIR,—Your wife having succeeded in her suit against you for misconduct and desertion, the President of the Divorce Division remarked that you had been "guilty for something like four-and-a-half years of deserting your wife under the most discreditable circumstances, and of guilty intimacy with at least two women"—by one of whom it was alleged you had been kept. In these circumstances, I shall be glad if you will let me know by return whether you consider yourself a fit and proper person to retain the status of a priest of the Church of England. The views, if any, of your Bishop might also be interesting. Meanwhile, please have the decency to abstain from any share in the ministration of the Church.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. George Buffman, Devonport.

DEAR GEORGE,—I may be old-fashioned, but my idea is that a young man is not entitled, because he is in love with a girl, to climb up on to her father's roof and peep through her bedroom window. However, I am glad the Magistrates did not take too serious a view of the matter, and that the charge against you was dismissed. No doubt you were considerably helped by the "excellent character in the Navy" to which the Chief Constable was able to speak; and for the future I am sure you will be more careful. Personally, I do not for a moment believe that you "intended to commit a felony." But you were a very naughty boy!

JOHN BULL.

To William Jones, Gardener, Oswestry.

UNNATURAL PARENT,—Temper was your only excuse for flogging your eleven-year-old daughter with a horsewhip until her poor little body was one mass of weals and bruises. In a fit of passion you dragged the child from her bed, wreaking upon her bare flesh the full measure of your savage fury. For this abominable outrage the Oswestry Magistrates fined you £5. Such a sentence was grossly, wickedly inadequate. If I had been on the Bench, I would not have fined you a farthing—although you would have had good reason to repent your appearance in the dock. What you really need, of course, is a brisk application of your own horsewhip. I trust that poor little girl has been removed from your brutal reach.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Arthur Holland, Chairman of Magistrates, Wimbledon.

DEAR SIR ARTHUR,—The other day application was made to you and your colleagues for a refreshment licence till 2.30 a.m. for two balls to be held in aid of charity. An Inspector of Police arose to say the Liquor Control Board claimed to be the only authority on the drink traffic, and would refuse a licence beyond 11 p.m. The Clerk said "That be dummed for a tale"—or words to that effect. You said the Board could go to Jerusalem; at least, if you didn't say it you probably meant it, and granted the licence as asked for. The Inspector then butted in once again to remark that the extension wouldn't be of any use, because the hall engaged was licensed by the Surrey County Council and could not be kept open for dancing after midnight. However, you gave him to understand that it *would* be opened and if the Surrey County Council or the police or anybody else had killjoy or pumpuritan objections, they could hand 'em in when the balls were over. I congratulate you on your challenge to an obnoxious and ludicrous tyranny.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Nichol Ridley, Chopwell, Ne

DEAR SIR,—I hope that by this time you recognise the unfairness, not to say the cruelty of backing out of a marriage at the last moment leaving the poor bride stranded at the alt steps. For playing this scurvy trick on a g at Chopwell you have been mulcted in dama amounting to £125; and, whether you ask f for it or not, I shall not lend you the mone For, to my mind, your conduct was wholly i excusable. Next time you are booked for wedding and want to get out of it, you w please give written notice to all parties b later than the evening before.

JOHN BUL

To Mr. Adam Eagle, Foreman Chemis Edinburgh.

SIR,—I cannot give the name of your e ployer, as the Coroner allowed it to be k a secret, and, in any case, it appears that was chiefly through an oversight of yours tha a number of medicinal tablets were made up with strychnine instead of calomel—a tragic error resulting in the death of a baby girl at Wallington. With the jury's rider that you were "deserving of severe censure" I am bound in these circumstances to agree—although, in view of the fact that you are not a qualified chemist, a large share of responsibility must rest with the firm employing you. I would add that if they think their name can be permanently concealed, they are labouring under a considerable misapprehension.

JOHN BULL.

To A. Hailwood, Esq., M.P. for Ardwick.

MY DEAR HAILWOOD,—"Was the Home Secretary aware," you wanted to know the other day, "that the rate of payment to the executioner and his assistants remains the same as before the war?" The right hon. gentleman *is* aware, it seems, but doesn't intend to worry about it. That's the usual official attitude, as you know. He says in so many words that the hangman can go hang, as far as he cares. I daresay you'll think, as I do, that this isn't good enough. One of these fine mornings somebody will have to be hanged—it may be the Kaiser—and the hangman won't be there, or will turn up short of rope owing to the fact that his present fees won't stand the high price of that essential commodity. And that isn't the worst—for, if he goes on strike, you or some other member of the House who happens to be a sheriff will have to get up early in the morning and hang the condemned man yourself. To my idea, Mr. Shortt ought to increase the bolt-and-drop fees right away. If any man deserves a living wage the hangman does, and there are times when I wish he had more to do.

JOHN BULL.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

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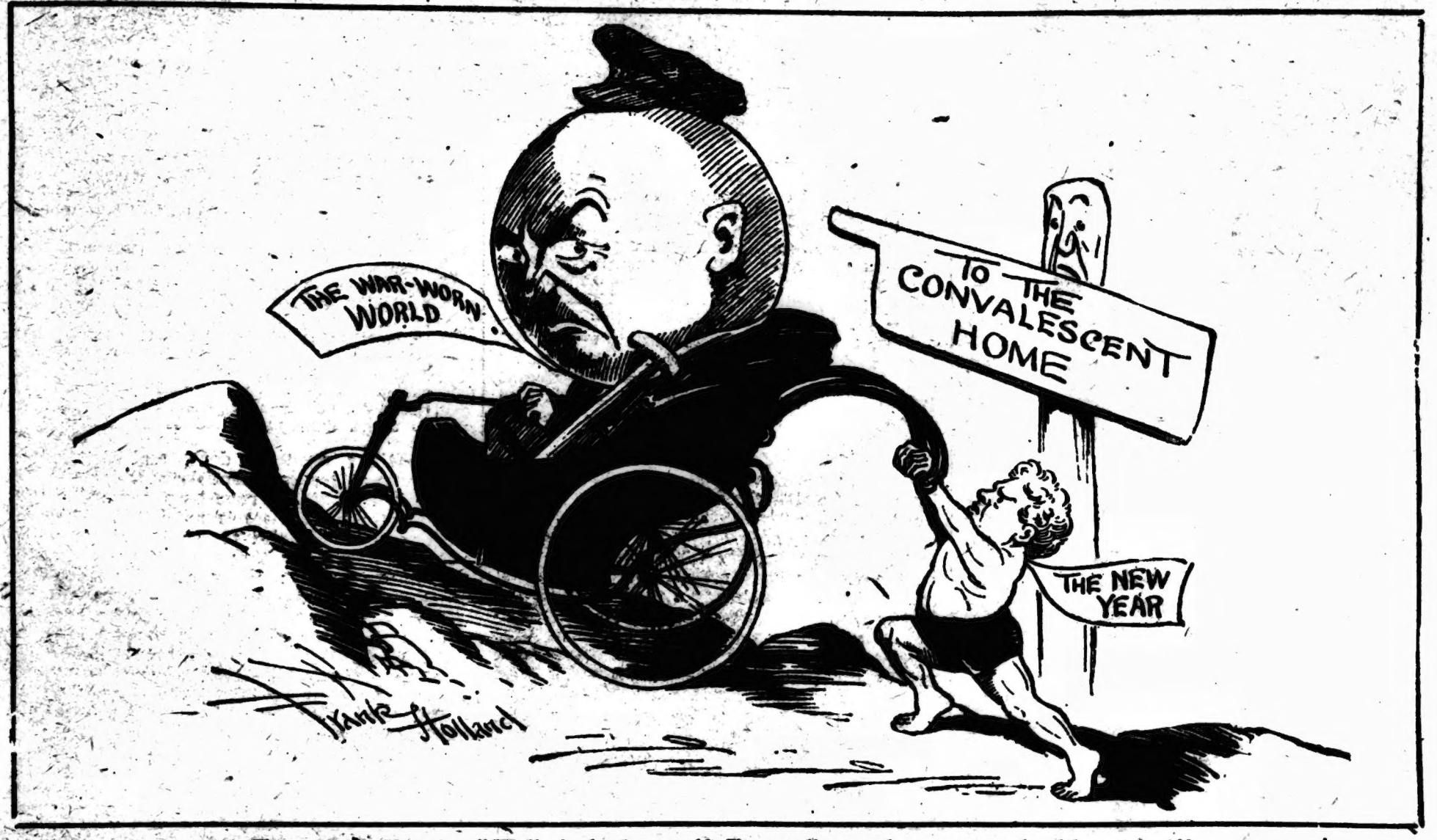
...DLED. ECGS

...t Auk of any ...not too many.

It doesn't put Bull off his "scoff" To learn from Lloyd that Turkey's off.

We wonder what it is endears Their pro-Hun child to British peers?

THE LAST "BIG PUSH."



THE NEW YEAR:—"Well, it looks as if I'm well on the way to health again!"

SWEATING THE FORAGE MEN.

MEAN MOMENTS DURING ORGY OF OFFICIAL WASTE.

When the Government called for civilian labour to replace that of the soldiers in the Forage Department sections, it was supplied in the main by discharged or demobilised Tommies. As long as the men were employed within eight miles of their home they received £2 15s. 8d. a week. The Yorkshire hay having been baled, the men were requested to offer themselves for Lincolnshire. As most of them were married, and many had several children, they accepted the invitation as the alternative to being without a job. The wages were then increased to £3 7s.—an inadequate sum in the circumstances, for when the men arrived at Gainsborough they found they had to pay 25s. a week for board and lodging, besides keeping those at home. But worse remains behind. They have now received notice that the Forage Department have decided to reduce wages by 15s. "They have got us in a place where it will cost us a week's money to get back," declares one of the men. "Of course they may be reducing the wages in order to cover the cost of wastage of the York hay, which went rotten. And no wonder. Three weeks' rain and snow, and never a sheet nor a thatch was on it. When the weather cleared they started thatching over the sodden hay, which was steaming hot and going mouldy. I will wager that when those stacks are removed, 7 out of 10 bales will be useless for animal fodder. What we complain of is the mean way the Government treat those who have suffered years of hardship to make the old country fit to live in." It should offer an example to private employers in giving a fair week's wage for a fair week's work.

THE TYRANNIES OF "DORA."

CONTINUANCE OF PREPOSTEROUS INVASIONS OF PERSONAL LIBERTY.

Among the irritating regulations to which most of us submitted cheerfully for good reasons in war, but to which we submit with ill-humour after twelve months of peace, is that which compels the closing of shops at a given hour and prevents anyone from buying even a bar of chocolate or a packet of cigarettes at the few establishments permitted to remain open for the sale of refreshments. A case at Bath differs little from several which have arisen from time to time. A policeman testified to the Magistrates that, while on duty in the Sawclose, he saw a young woman enter a restaurant at 8.40 p.m. and purchase some chocolates. "Witness stopped her and took her back to the defendant, who admitted having served her with the chocolates, but said he thought after the Armistice was signed he could keep his shop open after 8 p.m." On a subsequent occasion this same policeman saw a young man—a discharged soldier—come out of the shop about 9 p.m. "He took him back and defendant said he had served him with some cigarettes." Evidently this policeman not only posted himself outside the place and questioned customers as to what they had bought, but actually took them into his temporary custody to obtain evidence of offences which before the war were not offences at all, and ought not to be offences now. The tradesman was permitted to keep open until 10 p.m.; but because these customers brought out their purchases to consume off the premises, he had to pay a fine. It is out of all reason that grown men and women in an alleged free country should have to submit themselves to such preposterous invasions of their liberties.

NOW THEN, FATHER VAUGHAN!

THE REAL SCANDAL OF FASHIONABLE FEMININE ATTIRE.

Far more scandalous in our opinion than the eccentricities of fashion, censured by Father Vaughan and other observant critics, are the sweating conditions still attending the manufacture of certain kinds of feminine apparel. Quite recently our attention has been drawn to several scandalous instances of underpayment for needlework—the "finishing" of camisoles and other "dainties" of the female wardrobe—calling for a high degree of skill and even of artistic taste. In one case a number of these flimsy garments, destined for sale in the West End shops at prices ranging from 10s. 6d. upwards, were submitted for our inspection, and while admiring their delicate beauty, we were appalled to learn that they had been sewn together and embroidered with silk by women working in their own homes and paid at the rate of 4s. 6d. a dozen. We are informed, and can well believe it, that to "finish" a dozen of these articles properly takes at least 10 hours, and we hear of a case in which two industrious women, by labouring for these weary hours on six days a week, are earning a joint wage of £2 10s., from which there are deductions to be made for cotton and needles. There has, it seems, been no increase in the general rate of payment for this class of work since pre-war days, these poor women being left to bear unaided the full brunt of the increased cost of living. Evidently it is high time that the machinery of the Wages Board Act was extended so as to put an end to an abominable system of sweating which is a disgrace to the firms which are battening on the underpaid labour of defenceless women. Pending the completion of our inquiries we hesitate to name the principal

LOVE OR SHAME?

HOW THE PRICE OF LAW STILL MAKES DIVORCE IMPOSSIBLE.

By Charles Palmer.

WHEN some particularly bad instance of leniency extended to a criminal with money is made public, we are at once confronted with the cry so bitterly uttered by those who suffer—that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. But there is a greater injustice than the disparity sometimes revealed in the measure of punishment meted out—the injustice resulting from the fact that law is a costly luxury. There are thousands of decent folk living to-day in what well-meaning clergymen call shame, because the love—yes, decent, honest affection which binds those men and women together, cannot obtain the sanction of the law. It is an old story, I know, but it is one of the cruellest reflections on the law as administered to-day that a poor woman cannot secure release from a profligate or a scoundrel because she cannot afford to fee the lawyers, and the same criticism applies in the case of many an honest, hard-working man who lacks the means to pay the State to relieve him of the intolerable burden of an unfaithful wife.

Of course I shall be told that all that has been changed since what are called the Poor Persons' Rules came into force a few years ago, under which, among other things, cheap facilities for divorce were instituted. But the truth is (and a Committee which has just reported on the subject bears out my contention) that the poor person is still debarred from seeking the relief which the Courts alone can give, and that thousands of men and women are either existing in domestic misery or living in "shame" because they cannot afford to do otherwise. And I say this: that the reform has failed because of the exactions of the lawyers. It is admitted that £10 is the minimum cost in a poor person's divorce, and £25 where a nullity suit is entered. But read this from the Report in regard to the conduct of solicitors:—

> If the money demanded from the poor persons is not forthcoming, nothing is done; if the money is sent, the case is proceeded with until, in the opinion of the solicitor, it is exhausted by out-of-pocket and office expenses. When this occurs more money is asked for; if it is not forthcoming the case stops; if more is sent, the case proceeds as before. In some cases the money has been received and nothing has been done, but these cases are exceptional and have been dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society and the Courts.

Now, I do not for a moment suggest that lawyers should not be paid for their work; but I say this—that so long as the present system continues, by which the unfortunate man or woman has not only to pay these crippling fees but is compelled to come to London to secure a hearing of his or her case, so long will the stigma remain that the rich are favoured by the law and the poor are sent empty away. I read that the Divorce Court officials are weary with the work entailed by the "poor person," and that something like 1,300 divorce cases are on the waiting list. I also see by the Report from which I have already quoted that last year 2,215 applications were granted—that is, applications for permission to proceed in matrimonial cases. But of that number less than one-half got to the point of entering a petition, and of that half not 50 per cent. proceeded to trial.

Surely the moral is obvious—the present system is a failure because of the expense, notably in bringing witnesses, say, from Newcastle to London. The remedy is one which has often been advocated, and it is time it was tried, viz., to give County Courts a limited jurisdiction in matrimonial cases—thus enabling the parties to seek relief in their own towns. This plan is specially proposed by the only two members of the Committee, who are solicitors. This is what they say—and who can deny the force of their argument?—

> The County Courts already possess jurisdiction in a very large number of matters affecting the civil rights of the subject, and the tendency has been to increase their powers. There appears to be no good reason why matrimonial cases should be excluded from the jurisdiction of these Courts. . . . It is true that the present jurisdiction of the County Courts is limited in cases over which they have control. . . . The jurisdiction might be limited to cases in which the joint incomes of the petitioner and respondent do not exceed £200 per annum and their joint assets do not exceed £50, and the jurisdiction should be exercised by the Judge alone, who should have power to award damages limited to £100.

Something must be done, and that soon. Our sense of justice and of decency demands it. These bad conditions have been aggravated by the war—of that there is no doubt. Many a man finds himself tied to an inconstant wife, with no hope of finding the money to satisfy the man of law; many a child is to-day illegitimate because of circumstances wholly outside the ruling of the father and mother—that is, if we are broad-minded and sensible enough to recognise human nature for what it is. In truth, it is the parents, and not the child, who are illegitimate. Love is turned into shame just because money is made to count as a greater thing than love. The rich can change partners with the facility of a dance programme; they can even publicly admit that they commit perjury and outwit the law. The poor see affection described as sin, and irregular unions branded as immoral, because they cannot afford to make themselves "respectable."

BILKING AN EX-SOLDIER.

A SNARE THAT SONGSTERS SHOULD AVOID.

The poetic gift is not as a rule of great commercial value, and the prospects of amateur bards are certainly not enhanced through dealings with Austin James Kibble and Company, Ltd., of 27, Percy Street, W. 1. This firm of song publishers—formerly housed in Berners Street, W., where they traded simply as Kibble and Co.—have earned a most unfortunate reputation for slipshod methods of business, verging on sheer dishonesty, and to judge from the experience of a Southend reader there has been no improvement in this respect in the interval since we last called attention to them. This poor fellow, reduced through the war to a state of chronic invalidism—paralysis and consumption are named as his principal maladies—had occupied his time while in hospital in the composition of two very passable lyrics, which as far back as August, 1918, he submitted to Austin James Kibble and Co. With suspicious promptitude, the firm accepted both songs for publication if the author would contribute £15 15s. towards the expenses; but, as is the rule with this dilatory firm, the ex-soldier, having parted with his money more than twelve months ago, is still waiting for the fulfilment of the contract. In July last he made another desperate effort to recall Kibble and Co. to a sense of their duty in the matter, but failed, as he shows us, to get the least satisfaction "either in money back or printer's proofs." The loss of the £15 15s. is a most serious matter to the author, who, apart from his own disablement, has a consumptive wife depending upon the scanty earnings with which he can supplement his Army pension. His case should be a warning to amateur and inexperienced writers to avoid all dealings with

A CATALOGUE AND A PRICE.

CREDIT CLOTHIERS UP AGAINST A SNAG.

At Norwich there is a firm of credit clothiers and drapers called the Castle Supply Co. A reader, getting into touch with them through an advertisement, ordered, on what are euphoniously called "easy terms," a suit at £4 10s., and two shirts at 9s. 11d. each. When he had paid 11s., he was surprised to be informed that his bill would be £8 17s. 11d., while the deposit to be paid by instalments before getting the goods was £6 12s. 9d. As his own calculation (and ours) showed only £5 9s. 10d. worth of goods ordered, he asked for an explanation of the discrepancy. To this the Castle Supply Co. replied:—"We have charged you 9s. 11d. for the shirts, which is the price quoted in our catalogue, and if you can find where we state in same that we make suits to measure for £4 10s. we can't, and therefore, to use your own expression, 'You can bet' we do not do so for the simple reason it cannot at the present time be done." Yet we have before us "Section D" of an illustrated price list published by the firm, containing a picture of the clothes ordered, and describing them as:—"Style 468. Suit, Reliable in wear and durable in colour. Splendid value. Yorkshire tweeds in medium grey. Effective and stylish. Price £4 10s." That is an awkward snag for the Company to surmount, and it is of their own erection. Having accepted the order and a guinea deposit, they should have grace enough to honour their own figures. The catalogue states in large type "Full amount of order does not have to be paid before goods are despatched." However, after the initial instalment is sent it is discovered that three-quarters of the price has to be paid before getting them. We advise the Castle Supply Company to be more candid in their preliminary announcements.

OUR CHRISTMAS POOR FUND.

We have great pleasure in publishing the following list of subscriptions received in response to our appeal for the poor at Christmas time. We are glad to think that the generosity of our readers gladdened many a cheerless home.

"In Memory of My Two Sons Killed Last Year," £1; S. C. (Redhill), 2s. 6d.; E. R. R., 10s.; J. S. (Hitcham), £1; "Just a Working Woman," 2s. 6d.; W. B. (Holywell), £1; L. N. (Leeds), 5s.; "A New Forest Reader," 5s.; "Well Wisher" (Escrick), 4s.; C. A. H. (Shepherd's Bush), 5s.; Mrs. R. T. (Harlesden), 5s.; "In Memory of My Son Fred, Who Died In France," 2s.; "My D. O. G.," £1; A. E. R. (Walthamstow), 10s.; H. & M. G. (Rugby), 2s. 6d.; H. B., 2s. 6d.; M. H. B., 5s. 6d.; H. D. C., 5s.; Miss M. (Hessle), 10s.; E. C. S. (Glasgow), £1 1s.; Mrs. C. (Knaresboro'), 5s.; T. E. (Sheffield), 2s. 6d.; E. W. (Southsea), 4s.; A. P. (Sydenham), 5s.; B. K. (Bournemouth), 2s. 6d.; Miss G. S. (E. Cowes), 4s.; P. G. (Dorking), 1s.; R. G. A. D. (Castle Bromwich), £1; Mrs. A. E. D. (Southsea), 4s.; A. G. (Southampton), 10s.; "Justice" (Manchester), 5s.; "In Memory of Happy Xmases," 10s.; "In Memory of Harold" (Astley), 10s.; A. & J. D., 5s.; G. H. P., £1; W. P. (Basingstoke), 2s.; G. W. C. (Chelmsford), 5s.; D. M. (Glackmannan), 10s. and parcel; S. & J. B. (Crewkerne), 5s.; E. G. E. (Seven Kings), 10s.; E. C. (Oxford), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. D. 2s. 6d.; Mrs. G., 2s. 6d.; M. A. S. (Giltbrook), 5s.; "A Mother's Gratitude," 2s. 6d.; R. H. W., 5s.; E. B., 2s.; W. J., 1s.; W. H. P., £5; C. L. (Tooting), 1s.; E. L. C. (Tunbridge Wells), 2s. 6d.; P. J. (Halstead), 2s. 6d.; W. H. H., 2s. 6d.; "Widow's Mite," 5s.; L. A. S. (Thornton Heath), 7s. 6d.; "Yuletide," 10s.; "The Twins," 10s.; R. H. (Liscard), 2s. 6d.; C. M. S. (Brighton), 2s.; Anon., £1; Mrs. E. R., 5s.; J. H. B. (Harrow), 2s.; D. B. (Port Talbot), 3s.; M. F. (St. Leonards), 1s.; Mrs. E. M. (Brockley), 5s.; M. W. O. (Plympton), 2s.; J. G. (Dorchester), £1; C. C., £1; W. H. K. (St. Leonards), £1; E. K. H. (Hammersmith), 5s.; F. S., £1; H. V. R., 10s.; M. J. H., 2s.; "C.L.S.," 10s.; J. S., 2s. 6d.; "Winchester," 10s.; J. H. T. (Rhuddlan), 5s.; A. C. (Finsbury Park), 1s.; C. F. (Wolverhampton), 2s.; "Coal," 2s.; P. C. (Brighton), 5s.; R. A. G. (Hammersmith), 2s.; W. E. D. (Bristol), 5s. We have also received parcels of toys, clothing, etc., from the following:—Mrs. M. (Bathcombe); Anon.; "Molly and Buster"; P. F. (Hornsey Rise); "A Friend"; Mrs. C. G. L. (Bristol); Mrs. F. (Pimlico); "A Southall Reader"; Mrs. G. (Brixton); Miss M. (Chichester); C. S. N. (Boston); Anonymous; Mrs. C. (Basford); "Betty" (Dorking); L. C.; "A Sympathiser"; Mrs. G. (Ramsgate); Anon. (Cambridge); "Ralph and Lettie" (Sheffield); Anon.; E. G.; D. M. (Tenby); "E."; M. G. (Forest Hill); C. H. (Bristol); A. H. L. (Fulwood); A. T. (Streatham); E. M. S. (Surbiton); Mrs. H. (Ripon); T. J. (Newquay); "Noel Park"; Anonymous; Mrs. A. B. (Blackpool); E. I. A. (Finchley); H. L. (Peckham); Miss M. (Midlothian); E. P. (Wimbledon); "Cox's Caves" (Cheddar); Miss W. (Hammersmith); H. L. T. (Hook).

"SWALLOW" TALES.

FOUNTAIN PEN MERCHANTS' CURIOUS GAME.

A number of readers are interested in the advertisement of the "Swallow" Pen Company, of 13, Swallow Street, W., from which it appears that purchasers of "Swallow" Fountain Pens at 7s. 6d. each are to participate in a mysterious "competition," with prizes amounting to £1,000. As no further particulars are furnished and the names of prize-winners are to be announced early in the New Year, it is to be assumed that the "competition" is a pure lottery, and we are curious to know what guarantees the Swallow Pen Company are prepared to furnish as to the *bona fides* of the scheme. The offices in Swallow Street—a turning off Regent Street—are very small and shabbily furnished, the only occupants of the premises when our representative inspected them being a child of 14 engaged in packing up the pens, and an older and extremely well-dressed girl handing out numbered tickets for the "competition." It was certainly not at all the sort of place from which one would expect a genuine competition with prizes to the value of £1,000 to emanate, and in the absence of fuller information we strongly advise our readers to have nothing to do with the scheme—that is, unless the Swallow Pen Company are prepared to state when and where the drawings are to be held, whether they are to take place in public, and who guarantees the £1,000. Having submitted the seven-and-sixpenny "Swallow" Pen to expert examination, we are informed that from its quality it could easily be retailed at 5s., leaving a margin of 2s. 6d. for problematical prizes. We note, by the way, that the "Swallow" Pen Company is not registered under the Business Names Act, and its proposal to conduct a "lottery" does not appear to have been deemed worthy of notice by the police. Customers seeking genuine pen-value should give the Swallow Street firm a miss.

HORSES AND MEN.

GRAVE REFLECTIONS ON LOCAL CORPORATION.

Despite the special pleading of Mr. A. D. Jenkins, the Town Clerk, the Guildford Corporation did not come very creditably out of the prosecution of Fred Browning, the Corporation Farm Bailiff, for allowing a horse to be worked in an unfit state, and of another employee, Sidney Gaff, for so working it. The animal was a mare 20 years old. When Gaff was pulled up by an R.S.P.C.A. Inspector in the Market, she was dragging a four-wheeled wagon laden with manure and limping on a lame foot. Seen the same afternoon by the Inspector, Browning admitted he knew the horse was lame, "but," he added with significant emphasis, "I have my work to do, and if they want it done they will have to supply better horses." According to the Chairman of the Magistrates, the case—which was really a charge against the Corporation, with these two men as scapegoats—was a bad one. Browning was fined £2 and Gaff 10s. The Corporation will have to pay the fines of these men. That is a ratepayers' question, if not a very serious one. What *is* serious is the consideration whether the Guildford Highways Committee, in spite of their purchase of horses at exorbitant prices, exercise a competent supervision over the condition of the animals worked in the service of the Corporation. Browning cannot have spoken without his book when he said that if the Corporation wanted the work to be done they must supply better horses. Though the lame mare, as well as another old animal, has been destroyed since the conviction was recorded, ratepayers ought to insist on not being left in any doubt that the horses employed by the Corporation are generally in a fit state to be humanely worked.

70 Years' Experience

POND'S EXTRACT has just the same soothing power as it had in the days of our Grandparents. 70 years' constant use in thousands of homes finds its reputation greater than ever as the genuine first aid remedy. POND'S instantly stops all Bleeding (external or internal) cleanses the wound, reduces swelling, prevents discoloration and stiffness. Never be without it, and apply it immediately in all cases of Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Scalds, Sprains, Sore Throat, Piles, Bed Sores, Bleeding, Rheumatism, Earache, Sore Gums, Eczema, Chilblains, &c. Its effect is wonderful, and it is perfectly harmless, even when taken internally.

Of all Chemists, 2/6, and 24 pages of directions for use; or for P.O. to the Manufacturers.

POND'S EXTRACT OINTMENT. Invaluable for all affections to which an ointment is applicable. It is the sovereign remedy for Piles, Bunions, Corns, Rough Skin, &c. In jars, 1/9 and 3/-.

POND'S ANTISEPTIC CREAM. A cold cream, antiseptic, with wonderfully cooling and healing properties. Invaluable in all Skin Affections and for Nasal Catarrh, Neuralgia, &c. In jars, 1/9 and 3/-.

pond's Extract

The Old Family Doctor

POND'S EXTRACT CO. (Dept. 117), 71 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.1. 609

SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE

is
The Finest Sweetmeat ever sold
To bring Delight to Young and Old.

If you are looking for a Health-Giving Sugar Confection—here it is!

SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE

No party is complete without the attractive tin which contains those Super-Sweets.

Sold by weight in 4 lb. Decorated Tins, also in ½ and 1 lb. Tins.

See that the word 'Super-Kreem' is printed on the paper in which Toffee is wrapped.

SHARP'S, MAIDSTONE.

A PAINFUL EPISODE.

BRUTAL ASSAULT ON AN ASYLUM INMATE.

The charge against Harry Macdonald and Robert Grant, two attendants at the Inverness District Asylum, arraigned before the Sheriff and Jury Court at the Castle, Inverness, was that they "did assault William Charles Knight, now deceased, then a patient in the Asylum, and did strike him on the body and arms with their fists, did kneel upon him, and did thereby fracture his sternum and detach three ribs from their cartilage, and bruise his body and arms, to the serious injury of his person and danger to his life." Before the close of the hearing the summons against Macdonald was withdrawn, so we will say no more about him. Appalled by the terrible charge against him, Grant pleaded "not guilty"—but the evidence was too strong. Whether or not he was responsible for the shocking injuries set out above, he had evidently treated poor Knight in a most cruel and heartless manner, and on conviction by the jury was sentenced by the Sheriff to three months' imprisonment—an extremely light sentence, all things considered. It was not suggested that the deceased patient's pommelling by a brutal attendant had caused his death; but, none the less, the episode was a disgraceful one, calculated to excite the gravest misgivings as to the internal organisation of the Inverness District Asylum. It will be for the authorities of this institution to take immediate steps to reassure the public mind, and to make impossible the repetition of an outrage which has excited a painful sensation in the minds of Scottish folk, who have not overlooked the incident amid the excitement of New Year preparations. What is to be done?

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"BOYS' FRIEND LIBRARY":—"I halted, startled by a VOICE DESCENDING THE STAIRS."

"DAILY MAIL":—"The CHAUFFEUR . . . who sprang into the vehicle as it started off, was injured when it collided with a LAMPPOST. BOTH WERE REMOVED TO HOSPITAL."

"EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS" (advertisement):—"Perfection in Dentistry. No PAINS SPARED."

"ISLINGTON NEWS AND HORNSEY GAZETTE" (advertisement):—"Lady Wishes to Receive one Gentleman; WELL FURNISHED."

"GLOBE":—"M. Clemenceau, who broke a RULE whilst crossing the Channel . . . is still in great pain to-day."

"MAIDENHEAD ADVERTISER":—"The following were FINED for HAVING MUZZLES ON THEIR DOGS."

"WALLASEY NEWS" (advertisement):—"—— will Sell by Auction . . . a Large Assemblage of Household Furniture including . . . bedsteads (various sizes), WIFE AND OTHER MATTRESSES."

"BRADFORD DAILY ARGUS" (advertisement):—"Gloves of Good Value. Tan Nappa Kid, LINED WOOD."

"MADRAS TIMES" (advertisement):—"Overland Car . . . HOOD AND ALL ACCESSORIES CAREFULLY DRIVEN BY EUROPEAN DRIVERS."

"WESTERN DAILY PRESS":—"The British public has been horrified by British troops being ordered to fire on a mob of FIVE THOUSAND UNARMED NATIVES, of whom FOUR THOUSAND WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT, and about THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER WERE WOUNDED."

"UNION JACK LIBRARY":—
"Blake did so, in fact, whilst he was handing the American HIS CARD. Fellows GLANCED AT IT, AND SHOOK IT WARMLY BY THE HAND."

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag", page 18.

"Mixed Coal."

A milkman who adds water to his milk is heavily fined, and a coal dealer or colliery owner should be similarly treated for having slate and stone mixed with his coal.—H. FIELDHOUSE, Long Road, Armley, Leeds.

A Sound Motto.

"If a man deceive you once, blame him. If a man deceive you twice, blame yourself." This is an excellent motto when applied to individuals. It would be equally excellent applied internationally, not only at the present juncture, but in the future. Render Germany incapable of further deceit!—ANTHONY STERLING, Golder's Green Road, N.W.

The Secret Ballot.

The farce of the Premium Bond division once more illustrates the need for the secret ballot being adopted in the House of Commons, on such occasions at least. It demonstrates once more that under the Party system and "Whip wielders," members are not permitted to have a mind of their own, or even to represent the mind of their constituencies.—W. H. BATT, Moorland Road, Weston-super-Mare.

"The Trade" and the Revenue.

It is common knowledge that the "Trade" have been making enormous profits during the period of the restriction of hours. And yet, to compensate licence-holders for this restriction—which no one in the business wishes abolished—three-quarters of the licence-duty is remitted, entailing a loss to the revenue of the country of about three millions. It is surely bad business to "compensate" anyone for an increase in income!—(Mrs.) W. REID, Lawson Street, Carlisle.

Utilise the Small Ports.

Cannot vessels laden with goods be diverted from the congested London docks to small ports, such as Yarmouth? There are nearly three miles of good landing quays there, where fairly large craft can be safely berthed, with railway sidings running the whole length. Large fishing premises could be utilised for at least eight months of the year. This would give work for many, ease the railways, and save food from rotting.—(Mrs.) A. JERMANY, Lady Haven Road, Great Yarmouth.

Unconscious Default.

Events are moving in the insurance world, and things may soon be much better for agents, policy-holders, and even National Health Insurance contributors. But in connection with the amended and improved Act one serious anomaly still exists: members of Approved Societies are required to send their first certificates of sickness, directly and at once, to the chief office of their society. Many people positively do not know this, and an unconscious default often means a fine for them, taken from much needed sick-pay.—ARTHUR J. NEAL, The Avenue, West Ealing.

"Playing with the Bull."

That the Government is right out of touch with the spirit of the nation is proved by the erratic legislative measures thrust on the community—tantamount to "playing with the bull." The people are still in the dark about the coal stunt, for no satisfactory explanation has been given either of the drastic rise or the later and amazing reduction in price. Conjectures are rife, and ranting extremists are making the most of them—while Government muddling has established animosity between the miners and other sections of the community.—A. GILL, Cragg Villas, Creswell, near Mansfield.

"Gentlemen" and "Fools."

Lord Newton and other peers, full of tender solicitude for *innocent* German governesses and their kindred, have vigorously opposed the Aliens Bill. One of the pleas against expelling enemy aliens was based on the ground of the expense the wholesale deporting would involve! Imagine hordes of Germans let loose in our midst, and then count the cost of maintaining an army of police agents to counteract their ...ous plotting and espionage. The bitter lessons ...mageddon are already forgotten. Liars as the Germans are, one of them uttered an incontestable truth, "We shall never be gentlemen and you will *always* be fools."—FREDERICK COLE, Hellyer Road, Southsea.

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. G. Leo Clue.

"Margarine Only."

Most restaurants and teashops now exhibit the notice "No Butter To-day, Margarine Only being Served." As the profit on the small portion of margarine is about 200 per cent. more than on butter, in fairness to customers the charge for the substitute should be one-half that for butter, or the "pat" should be much larger.—WM. E. WILLIAMSON, Stanway Gardens, Acton Hill.

Pension Book Delays.

After being disabled in the war, why should a "disability" pensioner, when his book becomes finished at the Post Office, often have to wait from six to eight weeks for a new one to come through? During that time he is unable to draw pension, and it causes unnecessary suffering, especially where there is a family to keep. A new book should be sent on before the old one is finished.—E. DEWSON, Castlegate, Lanark.

Diphtheria and Sanitation.

The experts are again seeking for the cause of diphtheria. Grapes and bananas are under inspection, and presumably squashed currants and bad bacon also—whereas it has long since been proved that bad sanitation is the root of the matter. We have Public Health Acts galore; Sanitary Inspectors, Health Authorities, and now a Ministry of Health, on the one hand, and a vast army of tinkers and botchers disobeying the Bye-Laws on the other. The Health Authorities *know* that, while one insanitary house stands, it stands not only a menace to the occupants, but to the whole community.—CHAS. E. ROBINSON, Cameron Road, Seven Kings.

Control Advertisements!

Advertised watches, jewellery, articles of wearing apparel, etc., often when bought prove worthless. If a Controller of Advertisements were appointed, he could, on receiving a complaint investigate the circumstances, and on being satisfied that the complaint is justified, place that advertisement on a "black" list, to be circulated periodically to newspaper proprietors. By this means the swindler would lose his custom, and the genuineness of the remaining advertisements would be ensured.—G. LEO CLUE, West Street, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Babies and Beggary.

Every working-class man should buy the *National News* of Sunday, Dec. 14th, and read the column entitled "Babies and Beggary." It is real truth. Then perhaps they will realise that women are not mere machines—never done, never tired.—(Mrs.) KIDGELL, Overbury Street, Clapton Park.

Simplification of Laws.

Instead of setting up Committees for all sorts of ridiculous purposes, it would be well were one instituted with the view of thoroughly overhauling the laws of this country. How often do we find a decision in the inferior Court reversed in the Higher Court, and in the end the original judgment restored by the House of Lords? Much of our legislation is useless, as it is framed by men without a sufficiently broad experience of the matters upon which they lay down the law so complacently.—M. R. INGLIS, Castle Street, Edinburgh.

The Democratic Diplomat.

I have read with interest JOHN BULL's opinions on the possibility of a Labour administration in Great Britain, with the list of likely members. Should such eventuate, it may well be that the present system of appointments through the Diplomatic Corps will be abandoned. Without disparaging the work of Ambassadors and Consuls of the old system or that of the present holders of the posts, a Labour administration may see its way towards the appointment of men—from any class—distinguished not only by intellect, but also adept at mingling with, understanding and appreciating the manual workers, as well as people of high station.—JOSEPH D. REID, Octavia Street, San Francisco, U.S.A.

Government Accountancy.

The fixing of prices for any commodity depends mainly upon the *cost* of that commodity; therefore, the persons most fitted for ascertaining costs are those who obtain their living by it, viz., *Cost* Accountants,—quite distinct from Chartered Accountants; in fact, an Institute for Cost and Works Accountants is now formed, and held its inaugural meeting recently.—CLAUDE E. HINTON, Gunnersbury Lane, W.

The "Week in Hand."

It is the practice of many big firms to keep a week or ten days' wages in hand to facilitate accountancy, and prevent men leaving at a moment's notice. Whilst this is quite logical from the employer's point of view, what becomes of the interest on the money? A firm employing 1,000 to 10,000 men will have interest coming in every week on anything from £5,000 to £50,000 from *money that does not belong to them*, but is only held in trust.—J. F. SOMERFIELD, Tyler Street, Sheffield.

The Butter Blunder.

Milk is 11d. per quart in this agricultural district; controlled price of fresh butter, 2s. 6d. per lb. Farmers say it takes three gallons of milk to make 1 lb. of butter. If they sell butter above controlled price they are heavily fined, but realise 11s. on three gallons of milk. Therefore they have "chucked" butter-making, and the public suffer. Surely our officials

Move in a mysterious way
Their blunders to perform.

—ALFRED G. JAMES, Manchester House, Cowbridge.

Trivial Military "Crimes."

Ex-soldiers often find themselves seriously handicapped when applying for work on account of their "Army characters." The immediate attention of all employers should be drawn to the extreme "trivialities" that constitute "Offences" under the "Military Law," and to the exaggerated manner in which every little trifle is viewed, merely for the purpose of creating an atmosphere of discipline—also to the fact that those nominal punishments should not be allowed to act adversely in civilian life.—W. C. DAWES, London Road, Dover.

Army "Ready-Mades."

If the Government are eager to help the discharged soldier and sailor, let them allow any ex-Service man to buy a second "ready-made" for £2 12s. Thousands could do with another suit, as the prices at present (something like £8), do not allow of a working man buying extra clothes. When men joined up (except in few cases) they left their civilian clothes with the Quartermaster, and of course they are lost to them now; also a large number of discharged men belong to the old Regular Army, and they had only their Army suit to commence civilian life with.—DAVID CALLAGHAN, Bank Street, Lochee, Dundee.

The Transport Tragedy.

The question of transport is not being tackled in a statesmanlike way. Manufacturers, distributors, and consumers are all being seriously prejudiced by the shortage of railway trucks. After the railway strike road transport was to remedy the evil; to-day the congestion everywhere is as bad as ever. Cannot the factories and aerodromes in Government hands be utilised to repair and make waggons? Or if the railways be de-controlled, free competition will provide a remedy. At present a company doesn't care whether it handles the traffic or not.—J. HENRY KNEALE, The Limes, Anfield, Liverpool.

Wool Profits.

From the figures published officially in the papers, it is shown that the spinners and manufacturers in the Bradford district make an excess profit of from forty to fifty millions sterling every year, and yet the Profiteering Committee in that city do not bring them to account. They tackle the twopenny-halfpenny case of overcharge on a pound of treacle; but when in the next street a firm publishes a statement showing they have made in one year twenty times the amount of their average pre-war profits, they are left severely alone. Is this the Government's idea of democracy? No wonder that, on the one hand, there is very great discontent among those who have to pay exorbitant prices for the goods, whilst on the other, the list of cotton millionaires is lengthening daily.—ARTHUR DOWNHAM, Moss Lane, Morecambe.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THE NEW YEAR MAKE TO YOU?

ON the threshold of 1920—review your achievements and sum up your progress in 1919.

Has 1919 made any difference to your position in life? Have you made a big step forward in your particular sphere or are you just drifting?

There were times in 1919 when you had opportunities presented to you. Some of them were big opportunities, some of them were small; but they were manifold, and if you had seized and exploited them all you would have profited to a tremendous extent. Some of those opportunities you never perceived at all. Some of them you perceived, but did not thoroughly exploit. Some of them yielded up some benefit to you, but not all the benefit that you might have enjoyed. Many opportunities you let pass you by unheeded—because the human mind is like a wireless instrument; if it is not correctly "tuned up" it does not respond to messages from the outer world.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

Now, 1920 will present you with a multitude of opportunities. There is every evidence that the commercial world is in for a great "boom," and such is the economic structure of society to-day that the revitalising of commerce means an awakening and a re-energising of every other sphere of Life's activity.

So you will see that the New Year opens out rosy prospects if you will only prepare to take full advantage of them.

It has wisely become a tradition with us to make new resolutions at the birth of the New Year. Here is a resolution which you can make—and keep—with the certitude that it will yield you a rich return for your determination.

Make up your mind now that you will bring a completely efficient brain to bear upon your chances in 1920.

YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

Having made that resolution your next course is to discover the means of consummating it. And here your first New Year resolution links up with your first New Year opportunity. For to-day you are offered an unfailing means of increasing your mental efficiency and strengthening your powers in every direction—a certain method of adding largely to your income, securing rapid promotion, and achieving your greatest ambition.

At the beginning of 1919 there was a tremendous influx of new students of Pelmanism. Thinking men and women rushed to enrol in this great movement. In the first month of 1919 no less than 10,000 enrolments were made for the Pelman Course. 1920 seems likely to eclipse this record, for recently 3,000 enrolments were made in the course of a few days.

AS TO RESULTS—

The results which follow from these enrolments will inevitably be the same as the results which followed from the great stream of enrolments early in 1919. History will repeat itself. Just as, in less than three months after the 1919 New Year enrolments, students in their thousands began to report great benefits—financial, intellectual, social, and moral—so, too, before three months will have elapsed in 1920 thousands of students who grasp to-day's opportunity will report promotion secured, incomes increased by hundreds per cent., character strengthened, and life made better and brighter in every respect.

You can be amongst those who will so enthusiastically report their great successes by to-day making up your mind that you will no longer be handicapped by being a non-Pelmanist. If you have the least lingering vestige of doubt—and there are very few people in view of the published facts in relation to Pelmanism who doubt at all—you can make the most searching investigation, and bring your own judgment to bear upon the question of the value of Pelmanism to yourself.

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION.

Remember, you are not simply receiving a set of text books; you are getting a complete and individual course of instruction in which *your personal* doubts and difficulties, *your personal* ambitions and problems, *your personal* interests will be studied and met.

The expert staff of the Institute is at all times ready to place its experience and knowledge at your service, either orally or by correspondence, so that you may derive the fullest measure of benefit from the course. It is this conscientious and constant attention to the individual needs of each student that has made Pelmanism so wonderfully successful and resultful.

THE NEW COURSE.

The Course which is now being given is the revised and enlarged Course upon which the specialists of the Advisory Board of the Pelman Institute have been engaged for many months past. Brilliantly successful as the previous Course was, it may be confidently predicted that the new Course will be even more successful. The data have been gathered in the course of dealing with over half a million men and women of all classes. In this respect, the practical experience and the material resources of the Institute are so entirely unique that its co-operation and assistance have been frequently sought by the highest educational authorities. The whole scope of the System has been considerably widened, and its interest for the individual student deepened and intensified. As with its predecessor, it is not a training in any specialised technical subject but a most thorough and effective preparation of the mental attitude and memory, so that the sphere of technical effort may be considerably widened and its utmost possibilities realised.

HEALTH EXERCISES.

The New Pelman Course includes a complete series of Physical Health Exercises which have been specially contributed by Mr. Eustace Miles, the foremost English authority on Physical Culture. No extra charge is made for this valuable feature which has already proved of the greatest benefit to students.

500,000 SUCCESSES.

There is no ambition, there is no legitimate human purpose which Pelmanism does not completely serve. Moreover, there is no student of the Course amongst 500,000 enrolled who, having earnestly studied, failed to gain great advantages.

Opportunities should be grasped immediately—the coupon below is your opportunity at this moment. Fill it in, and post it (or a postcard) to-day to the Pelman Institute, 15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1, and by return you will receive the following literature which will enable you to arrive at a sound judgment regarding Pelmanism, in relation to your own aims and circumstances. :—

1. A copy of "Mind and Memory," which contains a complete descriptive Synopsis of the Pelman Course in comprehensive evidence of its value in the shape of students' reports.
2. A copy of "Truth's" famous Report on the Pelman Course.
3. A reprint of Sir Quiller-Couch's searching investigation into Pelmanism.
4. An enrolment form which enables you to take the complete Course at specially reduced terms.

If you prefer to make a personal investigation write a postcard or a letter requesting a Free Consultation Card. This will be sent you by return, and enable you to have a private and confidential interview with an expert Psychologist. You will thus be enabled to put the most searching questions, and see for yourself the work which Pelmanism is doing. If you care to discuss your own circumstances the application of Pelmanism to them will be abundantly demonstrated.

SEND THIS COUPON OR CALL TO-DAY.

To THE PELMAN INSTITUTE,
15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.1.

Sir,—Please send me, gratis and post free, a copy of the book, "Mind and Memory," a copy of "Truth's" Report, and particulars of the Course enabling me to take the New Pelman Course specially reduced terms.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS CONFIDENTIAL.

The NATIONAL NEWS takes national views—every Sunday.

WHY I AM

My Prophecy for 1920—Still the Same Optimist—Wh

By THE E

NEED I say that, by nature, I am an optimist? It is born in me to look on the bright side of things. I could not be doleful if I wanted to. In good temper and a stout heart may be found the secret of perennial youth. Youth and confidence make the world go round, and to-day as I look backward—and, what is of far more interest, look forward—I find nothing but cause for pride in the one glance, and reason for hope in the other. We have passed through the first year since the drum of war ceased to throb and the Hun grudgingly admitted his defeat. It has been a trying year—trying alike to temper and to trust. So many things which we had hoped would disappear when the maroons boomed forth the signing of the Armistice have remained to vex the spirit; so many hopes which were held out that things would never be the same again have been falsified. And yet when we recall the wonderful doings of the manhood of the Empire in the years of war, reflect on the splendid manner in which the nation has striven to recapture the ways of peace during the past twelve months, and all the signs and portents of the better days which are ours for the having—then it is that my heart is filled with confidence in the Future. That is why I am happy. I am happy in the knowledge that the old country with its daughter Dominions set an example to the world of unity and affection in the hour of danger. I am satisfied that during the past year the sound common sense and practical wisdom of the British people have prevailed over forces and influences silent and insidious, which have been working to our disquiet. And I am happily confident that, given the same soundness of the national heart in the immediate future, our course, in the words of His Majesty in proroguing Parliament the other day, "is set fair towards a renewal of national strength and prosperity."

Still the Same Optimist!

In my opinion, it never was more necessary than now to have confidence in ourselves—to believe in our star. What would have happened to this dear old country of ours, and the grand Empire of which we are the centre, if, when the Hun defied us, we had funked the challenge? I know there were some poltroons—the type of creature who loves "every century but this, and every country but his own"—who had been frightened by the blustering bully. We had heard so much of the wonderful German army—the jack-boot had made such a noise on the Continent—that if Britain had shown the white feather Europe would have been overrun and over-mastered almost before the enemy had got into his war stride. It was our pluck and determination which put mettle into the answer to the challenge and steeled the resolution of the Allies. And what we did in War we can and must do in Peace. There were those who used to smile at me with a kind of amused tolerance when I went up and down the country in the first months of Armageddon, calling our manhood to arms and proclaiming the indomitable might of, and certain victory for, the Empire. In speech and in writing, in every issue of this journal, on every platform I stood upon—and I went almost literally from Land's End to John o'Groat's—I was the radiant optimist. When the awful agony of the Mons Retreat was in all hearts—and some of us who knew the true facts then understood the full meaning of that bloody shock to French's "Contemptible Little Army"—I conceived it my duty as a patriot and a public man to assume the rôle of the nation's heartener. I tried to play the part; I hope I succeeded. I know that I won the gratitude of my fellow-men, from the highest in the land to the humblest under-[illegible]. And it is in the same spirit that I write to-day. This is my [illegible]hecy—this is my message: that we shall display the same fine [illegible] in peace as in war; that the same sturdy and steady resolve [illegible] enable us to solve the problems which war has accentuated [illegible]reated, and that before another year has run its course we, the [illegible]ish people, shall have proved ourselves worthy of the high repu-[illegible]tion we hold among the nations, and capable of winning a great [illegible]d lasting era of contentment and prosperity out of the murk and [illegible]ars of the Past. And just as I am looking forward with happiness [illegible] I think I am justified in looking backward on the year's [illegible] of my work with pardonable pride. From the moment [illegible] Armistice was signed, I recognised that, as Editor of this great journal, I had an important part to play—not merely in "educating public opinion" on the great issues of Peace, but in focusing the searchlights of publicity upon the doings of the Government, and keeping constantly before them the demand of the nation and of the Army for a just and righteous settlement with the Hun. Indeed, on more than one occasion I have insisted that, in matters of vital importance — as, for instance, on the Aliens and Indemnities questions — their pledge to the electors should be redeemed to the last syllable—the "Thorough" policy of this journal having in this and other cases been reinforced by my personal efforts in the House of Commons. If I am asked for an account of my editorial stewardship, I may point also to my continued efforts on behalf of "Tommy and Jack"—thousands of cases of hardship and injustice among men still serving and in the ranks of the "demobbed" having been remedied during the year through the direct intervention of JOHN BULL. I succeeded in obtaining from the War Office a formal recognition of the principle that there should be one and the same law for all soldiers of the King, whatever their social rank; while in the sequel to the tragedy of "Shot at Dawn," I have endeavoured to ensure that that law shall be at once just and humane, administered by properly trained tribunals, and hedged around by those vital legal safeguards to the protection of which, as has been strikingly shown in the recent case of Rex *v.* Beard, the vilest criminal is entitled.

My Sympathy with Labour.

Pre-occupation with these important matters concerning the serving and the ex-soldier has not prevented me from taking what I honestly conceived to be the line of justice and patriotism, in regard to the great Labour problems that since the Armistice have loomed so largely in the public eye. One of the most talked-of articles of the year was that entitled "They Know Not What They Do," published in the midst of the great railway strike, which won enconiums from the most unexpected quarters,—even from persons who on general principles were in fullest sympathy with the strikers! By this article, and others of a similar character, I hope I have disposed of the suggestion that I hold any sort of brief for the Capitalist, or am in any way opposed to the legitimate activities of the Trade Unions. Indeed, my sole concern is for the comfort and well-being of the great masses of the people, to whose interest the selfishness of some employers and the reckless policy of the Labour extremists are equally opposed. Under the heading "In the House," my readers have been fully acquainted from week to week with the details of my work in Parliament, where I have been able not only to employ "direct action" on behalf of our gallant war-heroes to whom I stand firmly pledged, but to further certain other important causes advocated for years past in the columns of JOHN BULL. Moreover, since my return to that seat below the gangway which commands such an excellent view of the Front Ministerial Bench, I have made the fullest use of "question time"—not only for the ventilation of public demands in relation to the great questions of the day, but for directing the attention of Ministers to the many cases of hardship and injustice, especially as affecting demobilised members of His Majesty's Forces, brought to light through the JOHN BULL Parliamentary Bureau, established on my return to Westminster. It was by this form of bombardment, too, that I enlisted the sympathy of the House on behalf of my demand for a searching Inquiry into the system of trial by Court-Martial—the War Office being finally induced to appoint a Special Committee, presided over by Mr. Justice Darling, upon which I was privileged to serve. While recognising to the full the able and painstaking manner in which this great Judge discharged the duties of Chairman, I have never ceased to regret his decision that concrete cases of hardship and injustice were beyond the legal scope of the Inquiry—as, apart from this ruling, I should have had the opportunity of bringing forward a vast amount of evidence which, if it had been at the

...M HAPPY.

...What "John Bull" has Done—A Glimpse at the Future.

...E EDITOR.

disposal of the Committee, might have materially strengthened the recommendations of the Majority Report. As it was, I was unable to draw freely upon the various *dossiers* filed in this office—apart from which, certain aspects of the Inquiry must necessarily have been incomplete. Again, I was largely responsible for the presentation of the Minority Report of the Committee, the recommendations of which have been so recently discussed in these columns as to be fresh in the mind of every reader. Suffice it to say that I stand firmly by the demand that for the soldier condemned to death by Court-Martial there shall in all cases be the right of final recourse to the Court of Criminal Appeal.

A Great British Institution.

It must not, however, be imagined that amid these larger activities I have lost interest in the daily editorial work of this wonderful paper, which during the year has brought me into touch, personally or by letter, with thousands of my readers in all grades of society. As I have said before, JOHN BULL is something far more than a newspaper; it is a great British institution—and to sit in its editorial chair is to have one's finger on the pulse of the nation. To the fullest extent permitted by our great and growing resources, every case of personal hardship, of oppression or injustice, is sifted and examined, the aid of publicity being discreetly invoked to dispel abuses that can flourish only in the dark. During the period of demobilisation, with its consequent reaction in industrial and domestic life, the phrase "Write to JOHN BULL about it" has become more than ever a popular slogan, and the letters of thanks received at our office from readers who have been helped or advised are an eloquent testimony to the efforts of a willing staff to see wrongs righted and injuries redressed. Finally, there is the "Greatest of These" Fund, so generously supported by our readers for the assistance of those to whom immediate financial relief is of vital moment—often, indeed, a matter of life or death. To preside over this great organisation, growing daily in usefulness and power, is truly a high privilege, and in laying the year's record of work before my readers I venture to submit that the position of JOHN BULL is unique among contemporary organs of the Press. In Parliament, among local authorities, and in the great Departments of State, it is recognised as the foremost protagonist of the individual citizen's rights—just as during the war and since the Armistice it has been acknowledged as the most powerful non-official influence within the Chinese walls of the War Office. But I never forget that it is the generous, intelligent, unwavering support of the mammoth public which has raised the paper to this pinnacle of success and power, and to each member of it I tender grateful thanks.

The Future in Our Own Keeping.

But to turn our thoughts again to the Future—and the immediate months which confront us—who shall dare to despair of 1920? Let it be a great year, and above all a year of internal peace. We have seen Russia bathed in fratricidal blood; we have witnessed the spectacle of Germany battling with the insidious forces of Bolshevism. But we are the victors—ours is the proud rôle of the triumphant nation, marching to new conquests through the merciful avenues of trade and commerce. And if the Dominions stand by us and link the Empire in these golden chains of mutual interest—which will grow stronger and more enduring as our interdependence in trade and commerce increases—than, indeed, we can stand four-square to all the winds that blow, and gain for every man, woman, and child who speaks the English tongue a place in the sunshine of contentment and comfort. And I am more than ever convinced that the Future rests in our own keeping—that the Empire must rely upon itself and trust to none. The Allied demands upon Germany were not only complicated but whittled down, because of the sickly sentimental attitude of President Wilson. France and ourselves paid a big price—first for the League which I have always warned our statesmen would be worthless, and next for the promised signature of America to the Triple Compact—which signature will, in my opinion, never be given.

Link Up with the Dominions.

I am not recalling these things to make a New Year's argument. They were grave mistakes, committed at Versailles when Wilson "put it over" Mr. Lloyd George. Why I refer to them now is to enforce my argument that the British Empire must look to its own inherent strength in the future as in the past for its security and its prosperity. And we must bring in the Dominions in ever closer association—never forgetting that they are peopled by men in whom the blood of Independence flows rich and warm, and who are only prepared to join with us on terms of unquestioned equality. I was greatly struck with what the Prince of Wales said in describing the impressions he derived from that wonderful visit of his to Canada. It represents what can only be described as the statesman's view in spite of the young shoulders that carry so sane a head. Here it is:

> The people in the Old Country must realise that the patriotism of the Dominions is national patriotism and not mere loyalty to Great Britain. It is loyalty to their own British institutions; it is loyalty to the world-wide British system of life and government, and it is, above all, loyalty to the British Empire, of which Great Britain, like the Dominions, is only one part.

We at home can learn a good deal from our sons in the Great Dominion. We have our own national patriotism—the pride of being born within the British Isles, of inheriting the first traditions of any people the wide world over. Let us be loyal to our institutions, of which the greatest are the Constitution and the Imperial Parliament. We may have our differences—all healthy families quarrel at times; we may occasionally find it a hard task to reconcile conflicting interests and do justice between man and man, whether it be the rights of Capital or the legitimate claims of Labour that are in question. But if we never forget that we are a great People, that we have won our liberties, gained our enviable freedom, and established ourselves foremost in the world's nations more by reason and argument than by brutality and force, we shall keep our heads and retain our all-commanding common-sense.

Record to be Proud Of.

And let me say these final words: The record of JOHN BULL stands revealed in its pages—cold print is an unchallengeable witness—and it is a record of which no one associated with its conduct need ever be ashamed. It will be my duty to use all its influence first for the protection of the under-dog. I count it the greatest tribute that can be paid to a man that he should be beloved and trusted by the poor and the weak—by those who, deserving justice, yet cannot fight their own battles to secure it. As I have stood by Tommy and Jack in uniform, so they can count on me now that they have donned "civies" once more; and so can the widow and the orphan, and all who are oppressed by laws ill-made or unfairly administered. But, while JOHN BULL will never fail those who make their individual appeals for its aid and influence, it will continue to represent with fearlessness, and without any of the bias of Party, what it considers to be the real national interest and the true national feeling. Shams and humbugs we have always exposed, and we have never failed to stand for the fullest measure of individual freedom. Neither Throne nor Constitution can endure without liberty—of the Subject, of the Press, of Speech. And no Government should be allowed to exist for an hour which sought to deny or curtail in the smallest measure that priceless possession. But while JOHN BULL maintains its challenge to all who would mean ill to the individual or the nation it will continue to point the way with confidence and to view the road with hope. My prophecy for 1920 is not founded on fantasy. Trade is improving; our exports, by which we test our national prosperity are advancing by leaps and bounds; wages are good; work is plentiful. If we only pull together, forgetting past feuds and ignoring all attempts to foment new ones, 1920 will be indeed a Happy and Prosperous year.

JOHN BULL AT PLAY.

RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

RACING.

Irish horses are likely to play a very conspicuous part in their races at Manchester this week—Saxham Prince, Voxol, Ardonagh, Clonree and Captain Scott being among some of the fancied competitors.

Ardonagh came to England just before the Grand Sefton, in which race he ran uncommonly well considering he was little more than half trained. Since the Liverpool Meeting, the risk has not been taken of his incurring a penalty for the Victory Steeplechase at Manchester. He has been expressly trained for this race and should require all the beating the best of the opposition can administer.

It should be a good race between Matruh and Annoya for the Crowhurst Hurdle at Lingfield Park—As the former has rather better credentials on the flat, he may be equal to beating Lady Wilton's Irish importation, though Annoya has the makings of a smart 'chaser.

The recent Plumpton meeting revealed a smart young steeplechaser in the Editor's horse, Promoter, of which more will doubtless be heard in the near future.

BOXING.

If the crescendo movement in purses continues, the rich may well resent being "fleeced" to pay the piper, whilst always will remain the boxing enthusiast of average means, who probably knows more of the game, and thus enjoys it better, to express open resentment at having the barrier put up against him.

As we have previously said, the favoured few in the boxing world are being exploited for commercial ends whilst other capable men are scratching around for regular engagements. We were glad, therefore, to note that Louis Ruddick, who had been out of action all too long, was fixed up for the Boxing Day show at Hoxton, with Benny McNeill, of America, as his opponent.

As to "futures," it is interesting to observe that Benny Leonard, who is styled the Lightweight Champion of the World, will defend his title at New Haven, U.S.A., against Johnny Dundee, on January 16th.

"Flashlight" Fulton, as the big American has happily been termed, has recently been nursing an injured arm and undergone an operation on the elbow. However, he expects to be fit and well for his bout with Willie Mehan in New York on Jan. 11th.

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

NEWBURY—WEDNESDAY.
Berkshire Hurdle Race—*WHITE HEAT.
Lambourne 'Chase—WHITE TROUT.

MANCHESTER—THURSDAY.
Cliff Steeplechase—CAPTAIN SCOTT.
Victory Steeplechase—*ARDONAGH.
Broughton Hurdle Race—A.A.

MANCHESTER—FRIDAY.
Peel Hurdle Race—*VALE OF THE REALM.
Victory Hurdle Race—BALLYHANDY.
New Year 'Chase—DAY DAWN.

LINGFIELD PARK—SATURDAY.
Yule Tide Hurdle Race—*CARSON.
Holly Steeplechase — PROMOTER; if absent, FIRESPARK.
Crowhurst Hurdle—MATRUH.

Result of Football Competition No. 14.

Ten winning teams had to be selected from the sixteen matches played on December 13th. Four of these matches were drawn, thus leaving twelve winning teams in all to select from.

Mr. E. Saunders, 12, Ashford Road, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2, was the only competitor who named ten winning teams, and, therefore, wins the prize of £250.

This week, and for this week only, the sum of £500 will be paid to the sender of ten winning teams, or the next largest number of winning teams, in the first round for the Football Association Cup, to be played on January 10th. JOHN BULL is the only weekly journal making such an offer. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity. For free entrance coupon see page iii. of cover.

BILLIARDS.

Newman's defeating Falkiner in their level match again revealed him as more than a possible for the championship. Meanwhile, Reece has been pegging close enough to. Inman in the Victory tournament heat to indicate a valuable stiffening in temperament. Smith, however, is still the favourite, but never was a championship event such an open question. By declining to defend his title, Inman has actually enhanced the interest.

Altogether, billiards form is very entertaining just now, and both Lawrence and Carpenter have been compiling some capital breaks at Cardiff. The Welsh champion does so well at times that the wonder is he does not take higher rank and establish himself among the elite.

FOOTBALL.

The New Year's football will bring back all the excitement of the pre-war days with the English Cup competition proper, resumed after an interval of five years. There is something extraordinarily fascinating about "The Cup," one reason being its startling upsets of form. Unlike a League which extends throughout the season, it is a case of "now or never," and the anxiety to apply the "knock out" makes it a wholly different type of game.

People are asking whether Tottenham Hotspur will go far in the Cup, the belief being that they will prefer to concentrate on League promotion, especially after their rude shaking up at Barnsley. We have heard these stories before, and can only say, "Watch the Spurs," who have just the type of team that won the Cup for them in 1901.

It must have been somewhat embarrassing to the Rugby Union selectors to see their England choices beaten by the South. The match, however, served to show the value of this kind of trial, as revealing points where a team needs stiffening. The two outstanding successes of the match, to our thinking, were Coverdale and Smallwood—both great players.

SCULLING.

It is a tribute to English sportsmanship that Ernest Barry has had sufficient support to justify him going to Australia next year, in an attempt to win the championship back from Felton. It looks as though he will have a hard task on the Parramatta, but he can rely upon Australia giving him a right warm welcome.

AN IMAGINARY INTERVIEW WITH THE REV. W. ASKWITH.

By Our Extra-Special Correspondent.

As instructed, I have, with considerable difficulty, obtained an interview with the Rev. W. Askwith, Vicar of Matlock Bath. I found him to be, physically, a normal specimen of masculine humanity; but displaying, mentally, all the peculiarities of a man labouring under an obsession.

Presenting my card at the Vicarage, I was own into the rev. gentleman's study by a lf-fainting housemaid, to whom I found it cessary to lend the support of my strong ht arm while we traversed the intervening rridor.

"Mr. Askwith?" I interrogated.

"The same," he returned. "To what do I owe the—er—pleasure of this visit?"

"To the address you delivered the other day," I replied, "in the course of which you ared that the Second Coming is now due. I am commissioned to inquire what is the data for your prognostication."

"Holy Writ," replied the Vicar.

"Having assumed the mantle of Joanna Southcott and the Rev. Baxter, whose prophecies were very wide of the mark, you are naturally expected by the general public to state the specific grounds on which you assign the Second Coming to the immediate future."

"It is borne in upon me," murmured he.

"Well," said I, "it was lately borne in upon Professor Porta that fearsome catastrophes would arise from a certain conjunction of the planets. Is it your ambition to emulate that discredited American?"

"Wait and see," retorted the Vicar.

"You are not named Askwith for nothing," I remarked. "But tell me. You say there will be a resurrection of the just. To be just one must be righteous, mustn't one?"

"Quite."

"But did not the Founder of Christianity declare that there is not one righteous, no, not one?"

"He did."

"Then the resurrection of the just will be something in the nature of wash-out."

The Vicar remained silent.

"You also stated," I pursued, "that the Christians would put on immortality, and that the enemies of Heaven would fight. Such ambiguities cut no ice. Your Bishop should warn you to refrain from trying to make fools' flesh creep. Your proper business as a minister of the Gospel is to try to make *this* a better world to live in, not to perpetuate the outworn prophecies of religious fanatics. The world comes to an end for everyone sooner or later.

Meantime, you should encourage your flock to go about their business cheerfully and undismayed. Did you ever hear the story of the couple who were courting one night in the village churchyard? The sexton had been digging a grave by the aid of a pick, shovel, and a jar of ale. Overcome with drowsiness, he fell asleep at the bottom of the dug-out, and was aroused to the darkness and a sense of his position by the sound of kisses.

From the grave, he remarked in sepulchral tones: "I used to do that when I was alive!" Terrified in the midst of their amorous dalliance, the couple fled. Their love's young dream was shattered. Do not act the voice from the grave, Mr. Askwith. Do not chill, but cheer your parishioners, and your people will rise up and call you blessed."

Wherewith I took my hat and my departure.

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Drenched to the skin, my boy! Why didn't you stand under cover? However, Nurse, just make him a steaming hot cup of FRY'S COCOA and he'll be quite all right!

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Well, Mater, I knew I'd be all right when I got home and had my FRY's, so didn't worry about taking shelter.

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese-paring, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

Get on With It!:—When will Messrs. Cox, the Army bankers, get a move on and hurry up the payment of officers' gratuities? Their delays are galling.

The Dorsets' Crop:—The 2nd Battalion of the Dorsets are at Bangalore, and they send us a heavy crop of complaints about their treatment. Native cleaning boys are forbidden the barracks, sellers of tea and fruit are also "verboten"; slacks and puttees, instead of the cooler "shorts," are the order of the day—and so on. Frequent parades may be necessary, but we understood that, before the battalion left for the East in September, it was one of the best-drilled units in the service.

Invidious and Unjust:—By the new Warrant, retired Colonels and Majors who served during the war are entitled to £30 and £12, respectively, for each year of service, but Captains are left out in the cold. The "skippers" feel this very much, and it is not improbable that the matter will have the attention of the House.

Coming Home:—The promise was made that certain classes of soldiers would be demobilised and sent home in February and June next. The job is being carried through now. Real professional soldiers have enrolled, and regular battalions will be sent out in a few weeks to relieve the boys who want to get home.

Can it be True?:—We still receive letters from men on the Rhine, telling us that they are badly fed. We know that people beyond the river frontier do not enjoy Hotel Astoria food, but is there any reason why our lads—our own flesh and blood—should not be fed like fighting cocks? And fighting cocks they may be again, one day.

"JACK."

"Clemency" or Justice?—We are glad to note the remission of sentences passed upon the bluejackets and marines who were recently mixed up in certain "regrettable incidents" afloat and ashore. It takes a good deal to induce Jack the sailor and Joe the marine to forget the traditions of their service, and we observe, with satisfaction, the official tacit admission that at least some officers blundered.

Who were They?—We are told that the officers in question have been dealt with in a disciplinary way, but it would not have been amiss if their names and offences had been announced. There is a splendid feeling at present between the officers and men of the Royal sea service; but, unfortunately, during the campaign we had placed before us numerous cases of hectoring and bullying on the part of those clothed in authority which made us think ourselves back to the days of Captain Marryat.

Not the Usual Way:—Concerning a Marine unit which got into trouble for alleged desertion and mutiny, it has been publicly stated that after they had fought hard and unsuccessfully for over twelve hours, they approached an officer and asked for food—only to be told to "Go to——, as they were no good." They then retired to their base and obtained rations.

A Suggestion:—We suggest that a general hint should be given that those who overstep the bounds of their authority, or do not give their men the full benefit of Admiralty regulations, will be sent ashore to try their hands in civil employment. The treatment in this way of one or two jacks-in-office would set a wholesome example.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

"Gentlemen, the King!":—We are amazed at the small response to the request of His Majesty the King to give ex-Service men employment. Is it the old gang, who say, in effect, "You were a soldier, and you were drilled. Your back is not limber enough for our work"? Even in those now old days, when employers begged their hands to take up the rifle and promised to send the missus and the kid a generous proportion of the man's pay, a part of that pay was often cut out by masters who sometimes had been loudest in their "patriotism" because the "missus" was not aware that she could enforce the promise in the law courts.

The Day Coming:—How "cannily" some employers have behaved all through! Now many of them hold on to the flapper in the short frock, who is satisfied with £1 a week—and, because he drew £3, chuck the pre-war man who took up the rifle. What a peep-show!

Those Beautiful Funds:—We still cling to our old belief that the Prince of Wales's Fund and the King's Fund were instituted as a kind of sedative for the public mind. So many genuine cases are turned down, and so long are the delays in the consideration of appeals, that we can only conclude that the officials want to make the job run on as long as possible, to keep their own home pots boiling. We have had thousands of complaints about these Funds, but one of the worst is before us now.

An Unheeded Appeal:—A poor fellow, with both legs off, was a typist before he became a soldier—a man with a splendid character. He begged the authorities of the King's Fund for money to buy a typewriter, with which he could earn his corn and other little things—but up to the present "na poo." Who subscribed to the fund and for what was it given?

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors; and (b) suffering amongst the people generally. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.]

Our Record of Help:—Our readers will be glad to know that through their assistance the record of cases helped up to the closing days of the year stands at nearly 10,000—the actual figure being 9,836. Each was a case of hardship or destitution, frequently in the families of our fighting men, and it is pleasant to reflect that JOHN BULL and its friends succeeded in sending such a huge measure of help.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Under the Sword:—A woman with a family of young children had illness in the home. The rent, too, was behind, and an impatient landlord had sued her for his money.

Helpless:—A paralysed man has a wife in hospital. In this case, too, rent was owing, and in addition to his landlord, his doctor was dunning him.

The Breadwinner Down:—A woman's husband has been ill for three months. She has four youngsters to keep, and her sole income is but £1 a week.

Discharged and Destitute:—A discharged man is ill and unable to work. He had sold most of his home to provide food for his family.

The Wrong 'Uns:—We do deplore the number of able-bodied fellows who are work-shy and prefer to loaf and cadge when they can earn a modest living. They hang around Rowton Houses and similar establishments, where they can obtain a night's lodging for a few pence. They come to us with fantastic stories, but we quickly size them up, by intuition or by using the telephone, and send them empty away. A no doubt kind-hearted doctor "south of the river" last week sent us 18 cases on his own, simply guaranteeing that "this man seems to be a good chap," etc. In nearly every instance the applicant was a "work-shy" and a loafer. In a word, nobody who is not in unavoidable distress need apply to us. The drones who batten upon the unthinking charitable public are dealt with sharply.

A RAY OF SUNSHINE.

(A case typical of the many of distress and hardship which have been relieved by our Fund during the week.)

So paralysed that he can scarcely move, a poor fellow in the slums of East London has a wife and two children of school age to share his hopeless lot. The woman earns 17s. weekly as a cleaner at a London music-hall; and this, with 14s. a week from the Guardians, constitutes the sole income of the little family—for the support of the invalid and his wife, and the needs of two growing youngsters. Call it 15s. of pre-war money, and imagine the pinching and scraping that are necessary if the wolf of hunger is to be kept at bay, allowing nothing for the extra needs of the helpless invalid. It is not idleness, or drink, or crime, but sheer misfortune that has reduced the poor chap to his present pitiable level. Once a soldier, he was afterwards employed by two large London firms, being known as a sober, reliable, and industrious worker. But, alas, the blows of Fate fall upon the just and upon the unjust, upon the worker and the wastrel; and, when we came across him, the paralysed man—who recalls with pathetic pride his short period in the Army—was very near despair. Signs of appalling poverty darken the little home. The household budget is a marvel of method, yet a tragedy of want. After rent, fuel and light, and the wife's fares to and from her work are allowed for, there is a balance of 3s. 6d. weekly for the support of each member of the family—just sixpence each a day! Still, it has to be said that, in spite of poverty and suffering, the family are knit together in ties of close affection. Their dread is that the father may be driven into the Workhouse, the children removed, the home broken up. To relieve their immediate necessities and to put new hope into the hearts of the parents by means of a grant from our "Greatest of These" Fund has been a privilege indeed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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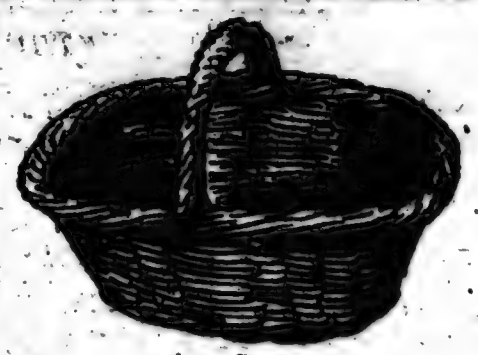

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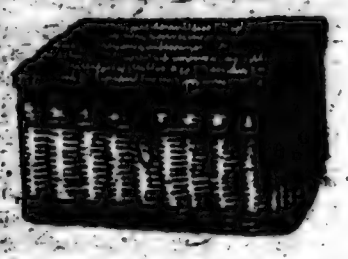

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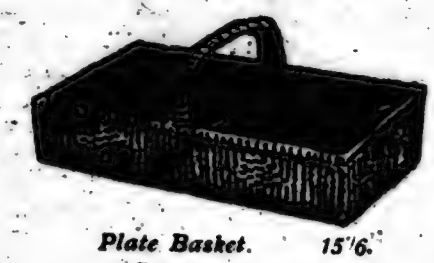

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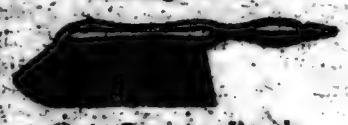

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Indigestion
TWO YEARS AGO.
IT WAS A WONDERFUL CURE.
EVER SINCE THEN I HAVE EATEN WHATEVER I PLEASED."

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Faithfully yours,
(NURSE) A. CARTER.

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IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

BY OUR CITY EDITOR.

A Plethora of Re-Insurance Companies.

The introduction of new Insurance Companies to investors is a matter of supreme importance to the public. During recent months what may be termed a boom has set in by the creation of a comparatively large number of Re-insurance Companies, ostensibly formed to take the place of German-Austrian concerns which took over surplus lines from British Insurance Companies prior to the war. Statistics have been published showing the huge volume of Re-insurance business obtained in this country by foreign Companies. These statistics naturally proved a strong lever whereby the new enterprises were able to make their appeal to the public for capital. I am afraid, however, that time will show these flotations have been too numerous, and the ultimate success of many of the new ventures must remain in doubt. Indeed, the red light is already being discerned by the public, for I hear that the latest promotions are not going at all well.

Brazilian Taxation.

It is said that it was the President of the United States of Brazil himself who suggested that a tax of 5 per cent. should be imposed on dividends and interests paid to the foreign holders of Brazilian securities. Possibly he has never read the fable about killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. Brazil is a country of vast undeveloped resources, and what it wants above all else is foreign capital to make its potential wealth available. To tax the already over-burdened British and French investors, who have hitherto provided the Republic with most of the money it has required, does not seem a superlatively brainy idea, but I shall be surprised if anything comes of the suggestion.

Chinese Unrest.

Chinese 8 per cent. Notes, handed to Vickers in payment for services rendered and by them offered for public subscription recently, have fallen to a heavy discount, and call pointed attention to the fact that the unwieldy Republic is in a seethe of unrest. China has always punctually honoured her debts, and in the East the Chinaman's word is regarded as as good as his bond—so we may hope for the best, although a serious upheaval must have very unpleasant consequences. Everywhere we see the same symptoms, and in Europe they are understandable after the great war, but China is about the last place on earth where I would look for them.

French Premium Bonds.

Quite a bombshell exploded in the market last week by the announcement that the Stock Exchange Committee would not permit dealings in these bonds, the Law Officers of the Crown having decided that they are illegal under the musty old Lottery Act. Now, many British investors have subscribed on the faith of the establishment of a market in them over here, and they have a real grievance.

Carreras' Fine Showing.

The well-known tobacco firm of Carreras has had a wonderful year—nearly £100,000 profits after writing off everything. The forthcoming meeting on the 20th ought to be a happy affair.

Big Bank Amalgamation.

Our biggest Joint Stock Bank, the London Joint City and Midland, has made yet another "absorption"—this time of the old-established Clydesdale Bank. This important excursion into the Scottish financial world will undoubtedly be reflected in the profits and prestige of the great enterprise.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(All enquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

GRADUATE (Edinburgh).—*British Mannesmann Tube:* The company's address is Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C. It is a sound business and doing well. The next meeting will be held on January 7th, when a dividend and bonus of 5 per cent. will be declared. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid last May.——J. G. C. (Walker).—*Emba Caspian:* At present the company is necessarily under a cloud owing to the disturbed condition of the country, but the shares are worth holding at the price you paid.——Mrs. E. R. (Eastbourne)—*Congo Bond:* If you actually have the bond in your possession you are all right and have only got to wait, but if you left it with the firm which has failed you will find great difficulty in proving your title.——C. W. F. (Hale).—*Fellows Magneto:* So far as I know the company is doing well, and there is no reason why you should sell at present.——Miss B. (Upper Norwood).—*Balkis:* You would get so little for the shares now that, if you paid a much higher price, you should see the thing through. Prospects are not grand but there is always a sporting chance.——M. M. (Kiltimagh).—*British Maikop.* I do not think it worth while sending good money after bad at present, and the immediate prospects are not particularly rosy.——CONSOLIDATED (Ripley).—The stock referred to is *Consols*, now quoted about 50. It is redeemable after 1923, but only at the option of the Government, which will not be exercised in our lifetime. All the same, there is a fair chance of the price improving when other financial difficulties are solved.——F. J. P. (Tooting).—*Land & Banking Agency:* I am sadly afraid these shares are worthless. The firm of *E. C. Lovegrove* is notoriously untrustworthy, and it is a pity you did not consult me before, instead of after, parting with your money.——J. S. S. (St. John's Wood).—*Clyde Navigation:* Shares are not quoted and I cannot find their pre-war value.——T. W. (Kendal).—*Whitehead Aircraft:* There is not much chance of recovering anything. You had better keep in touch with the official liquidators and have nothing at all to do with outsiders who pretend to be anxious to help you.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

COMPANY MEETING.

SOUTH AMERICAN STORES (GATH & CHAVES), LTD.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of this company was held on December 19th at Winchester House, London.

Baron F. A. d'Erlanger, who presided, said that £82,000 was being transferred from profit and loss account to general reserve, which brought the total under that head to £300,000. The year's results might be looked upon as satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that the business was paralysed during several weeks in consequence of strikes. The President of their Local Board estimated that the net profits had been affected by that strike to the extent of about £180,000. They had recently raised the necessary capital to provide for the erection of the new Stores which were so essential to the concentration and expansion of the business; the issue of debentures was over-subscribed.

The report was unanimously adopted.

GOOD SOLID LEATHER.

STYLE No. 101.—Chrome Box Leg. Leather lined Stout hard-wearing soles, with two rows wrought-iron studs toe and joint driven in flush. Standard screwed. Quarter iron tip on heels

The construction of the boot ensures the hardest wear. A useful boot for working men.

If not sure of size send outline of stockinged foot.

27/-

Post Free.

Cash with order Style No. 101.

Sizes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, (Size 12, 1/- extra) Each size made in three different widths: No. 4 (Medium), No. 5 (Wide), No. 6 (Extra Wide).

Write for our List of Other Styles.

THE MAXIMUM SHOE CO., LTD.,

Dept. 70, Maximum Works, Northampton

WINDOW DRESSING COMPETITION.

Intending Competitors in the Cycle or Motor Trade.

ARE you "putting your best goods in the window" and specialising on Dunlop products?

There are **Dunlop tyres** and **Dunlop accessories** for all seasons, all purposes and all occasions.

Dunlop.

TRADE MARK.

BUY DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY
Your address on a postcard to H. Samuel brings you by return his Big
FREE BOOK OF BARGAINS
which shows how you save by buying direct at next to FACTORY PRICES!
75/-
5 Fine Diamonds.
£8
Magnificent Single-stone, Claw £8 Ring.
WRITE NOW! Get the Big Free Book and save!
H. SAMUEL LTD. 100 Market St., MANCHESTER.
FREE BOOK OF 3000 BARGAINS
H. Samuel Ltd.

CHILBLAINS POSITIVELY CURED BY GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT DRAWING OUT THE INFLAMMATION.

For curing Chilblains the value of GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT cannot be exaggerated. We assert most positively that for drawing out the inflammation which causes Chilblains, and for allaying the pain and itching, GRASSHOPPER'S efficacy is not surpassed, and cannot be surpassed, by that of any other preparation. It draws out the inflammation as easily as a sponge absorbs water. One or two applications are sufficient to convince the most sceptical that they need not suffer from any more Chilblains, as they will realise that in GRASSHOPPER they have a means of curing the very worst cases. GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT may be had of Boot's, Timothy White's, Taylors' Drug Co., and other Stores and Chemists, at 1/3 a box, or direct, post free, from J. B. ALBERT & CO., 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

DEE & ESS COCOA ESSENCE

D & S

THE MOST PERFECT FOOD BEVERAGE.

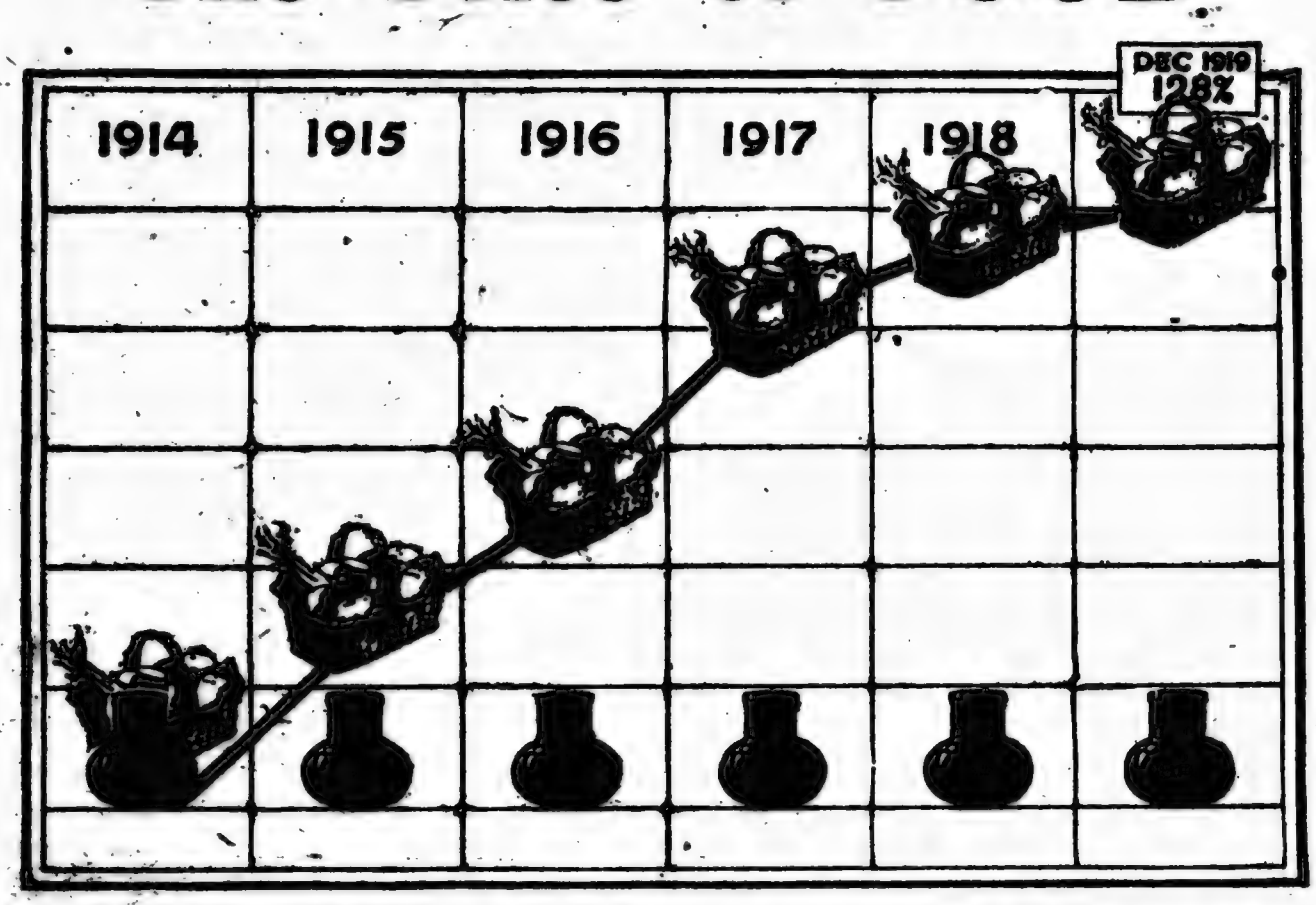
GIVES STRENGTH TO ENDURE

Sold by all Grocers.

Manufactured by

DARJEELING TEA CO., LTD.

The RISE in The Price of FOOD



No Rise in the Price of BOVRIL

WHILE practically all the things you put in your shopping basket have doubled in cost, Bovril remains the same price as in July, 1914, and it is not only the same price; *it is the same quality.* Bovril Ltd. have succeeded in their determination not to increase prices. A smaller profit per bottle on increased sales and skill in keeping down the cost of production have enabled them to achieve what probably has not been achieved in the case of any other popular food—namely, the maintenance of pre-War price and quality.

Yet people would have paid almost any price for Bovril. There were times when it could have been sold for a sovereign a bottle. But the policy of Bovril Ltd. was *not* to take advantage of the people's necessity, but to *help* in that necessity, and to consider it as a National Trust. That is why the price of Bovril is the same as in July, 1914.

That is why

Bovril did not Profiteer

The Body-building Power of Bovril has been proved by independent scientific investigation to be from 10 to 20 times the amount taken.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

F. S. S. (Westminster, S.W.), apropos of our investigations into the Housing Scandal, writes:—"It was very good indeed of you to visit us poor people of St. Peter's Street. . . Not even the clergy of this parish would do it." Perhaps they will, now that a layman has set the example.

"WIDOW" (Carshalton).—Unless you are writing Bedlam nonsense about a child being "secretly drugged" and "slowly poisoned," the duty you should have discharged long ago is to communicate with the police.

"MYSTIC" (Pollokshields). — "Everything has been prepared to bring about a lightning strike of miners at Christmas." Published now, your news looks a bit soppy, doesn't it?

"READER" (Erith).—You do not, surely, imagine that we bought the *Deutschland* from the Huns? Sounds to us as though you have been oversleeping yourself.

B. E. R. (Bexhill-on-Sea).—"The Alien Bill needs strengthening, not whittling down." Exactly; and now that it is an Act, its application will need careful watching.

"OBSERVER" (Margate).—It is not our business "as an M.P." to ask rude questions of stationmasters. You're the second one who has tickled us with that straw.

MRS. F. D. N. (Hove).—"Is it quite impossible for your book to be published in New Zealand?" Oh, lady, we have not the heart to leave Long Acre in sackcloth and ashes.

MISS FERGUSON (Scotland).—Your mother made two dolls, raffled for by 1s. tickets, and the proceeds, £100, have been sent to St. Dunstan's. But—nobody will mention it, because it was a "lottery"! Well, not being nervous, we mention it with hearty thanks to ma and you, and should like more lotteries of that kind.

L. G. (Ponders End).—It is not only within the last week or two that we have "started on the food business"; in point of fact, we have pecked a bit at intervals since birth.

"BRITISHER" (Los Angeles).—"On the whole, the United States is very prosperous." That's the best of being "too proud to fight."

F. J. G. (Sunderland).—If, as you say, you are "a very old reader," you ought to know that we have frequently called attention to the just grievances of chemists under the National Health Insurance Act.

A. D. H (Aberdeen).—Thanks for polite allusion to our "wonderful and intellectual pen-power." You are evidently a gentleman, unless you are a lady.

H. J. C. (West Hampstead, N.W.).—Sorry, but we do not quite fancy ourselves as a "Controller of Bricks."

"DAISY" (Wood Green, N.).—"Is uniform not a thing to be proud of rather than ashamed?" Yes, provided there are no broad arrows on it.

F. F. (Hackney Road, N.).—A landlord who demands £200 key money for a house rented at £65 per annum deserves to hang, along with the fool who submits to such blackmail.

C. S.—We duly note that you have written an essay on "What preachers in our day cannot do." There certainly is one thing the majority of them cannot do—and that is, preach.

H. R. S. (Hampstead Road).—So you fancy you've caught us tripping because we maintain that a cockerel is an animal. As a matter of fact, you've come an awful cropper yourself—as a bird is merely a feathered animal.

A. L. (Kidderminster).—Sorry cannot lend you space to "ask questions," but assure you of our fond sympathy. And a piece for the missus.

J. E. G. (Surbiton).—At first, we thought your letter was a volume or two of the Encyclopedia Britannica, which someone had sent us as a New Year's gift. Many thanks for all your trouble.

"ENGLISHMAN."—We note your views on the London tailors' strike, but advise you not to air them east of Aldgate.

"LOVER OF 'JOHN BULL'" (Ashford).—Thanks for interesting details of the ex-Kaiser's birth. In what capacity did you grace the proceedings?

"COUNTRY PARSON" (Weston-super-Mare).—We note your suggestion of "a day of intercession" for Russia. Please fix it provisionally for Ash Wednesday.

"READER" (Hammersmith, W.).—We might have "obliged by inserting" your letter on labour troubles if it had been a trifle tastier and twice as small.

S. N. (Plymouth).—We appreciate the way you have got home on the Bridgwater Conchy, by advertising against him:—"Fresh-flayed Rabbit Skins, 10s. 6d. doz. 'Sell to those who helped to win the war.'" The worm will squirm.

"FIGHTING SOLDIER."—We note that you think ladies should have kept away from the Beckett - Carpentier fight, to leave room for you. Or, of course, you could have had one of them on your knee.

MRS. H. (Bolton).—Ten big pages full of troubles, but believe us, we sympathise with all of them.

F. D. B. (Transvaal).—It is, alas! too true, that many respectable citizens in this country are "hollering for coal," and your information that there is a bit in Rhodesia won't stop them, either.

H. J. C. (Portsmouth).—Fancy the JOHN BULL poster destroyed in a gale, the only figure left intact being that of the Editor! But there, we have always declined to get the "wind up."

D. H. (Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.).—"Matches is an article of daily use to everybody and is quite aware of the cost of matches owing to the war price have risen like other foodstuffs etc." The writers of this advertisement are natives. Many British people are equally ungrammatical.

MRS. M. B. (Edinburgh).—We would have enabled you to marry your deceased husband's brother "before Parliament gets their holidays," but Parliament would not have it.

W. R. (Stratford).—If the Post Office rules you are not entitled to a pension but has paid you £180 in gratuities, we are afraid they will not budge. When they say no, they stick to it, fair or foul.

"DEVON."—In country districts the Income Tax Assessor is often a nosey Parker; but it is as well to maintain friendly relations with him.

C. K. B.—Our recent cartoon anent the house shortage was not suggested by your Bullet. You probably caught a ripple from our artist's brain wave.

"THREE JOCKS" (On the Rhine).—Suppose we say that the Scots, with the slight assistance of the English, Welsh, Irish, Americans, and the rest of the Allies, won the war? We want you to have all the credit due to you.

"A MALTREATED CYCLIST" (London, S.W.).—The carrying of a red rear-light on cycles seems to us a wise regulation. We cannot follow your line of argument, which suggests that the rear lamp adds to the cyclist's danger.

G. H. M. (Sheerness).—We cannot follow all your theories, but you are evidently a warm-hearted woman, whose approval sweetens our labours.

A. B. T. (East Finchley, N.).—We certainly do not hold with the retention of married women in the public service at the expense of single wage-earners. It is jolly to find we agree.

H. A. D. (Falmouth).—Awfully sweet of you to "drain your glass to us." In good time, let us wish you a chippy Easter.

A. H. W. (Shortlands).—Your verses are not technically "limericks," although if you fancy that nickname for them it is no odds to us.

J. W. A. (Cannock).—Glad you were pleased with our paragraph about you, from which doubtless you derived an unaccustomed sense of importance.

"CIVILIAN SUBORDINATE."—(Chester).—Agreed that Government creates a bad example by paying you and others only 53s. a week, including bonus. They certainly ought to know better. Have you petitioned?

"EX-CAPT." (Morley).—"There are no two ways about it, you are just great." Some people say we are so both ways and all round.

R. F. (Farnham).—Inform you what was "the highest temperature registered last summer"? Some poor influenza patient probably has it.

"SILVER BADGE" (Portrush). — The suggestion that "everyone should try and give a little help to our 'Greatest of These' Fund," is one that commands our warm approval.

"THREE READERS" (Grantham).—That certain policewomen here and there are nasty-minded nuisances is, we fear, established by history and experience.

"JUSTICE LOVER" (Oxon).—"My opinion is that present-day farming and the profits being made require a thorough investigation." Sir, your opinion has long been ours.

MISS B. (Acton) says she heard a customer ask a local butcher, "Have you put my leg in salt?" Whereat the man answered, "Yes, mum, I have put it in with mine." We refrain from doubting a lady.

"FOODER" (London, S.W.).—"Is the Army, which is no longer fighting still receiving the pick of everything? Why can't they take their turn at eating indifferent food?" They want none of your gammon.

GOLD WRISTLET WATCH.—Any reader finding such an article in the neighbourhood of Long Acre recently is requested to communicate with "D.M.," care of this journal, by whom a reward of £5 will be paid for its return.

"1916" (Oxon).—"I am an Australian and also a reader of your paper." Then you are twice blessed.

"ANTI-LAND GIRLS."—It isn't sporting to be jealous of the recent appreciation shown to the Land Girls. It is possible for the public to admire the work of the W.A.A.C.s at the same time.

J. B. (Burnley).—"How is it I awake every morning and always find a John Bradbury in bed, and yet I am always poor?" Because your name isn't Fisher.

A. R. (Leytonstone).—Don't ask us to expose a firm such as the Universal Stores, of Cannon Street, Manchester, whose shady tactics we have repeatedly denounced.

A. W. C. (Glasgow).—Cannot see why you should worry even if the Huns did scuttle their fleet "clumsily." It isn't as though you had to paint a picture of it.

W. R. R. (Forest Hill, S.E.).—Your proposed amendment of the law duly noted. Nice bag of tricks it will be when you've done with it!

S. J. H. (Great Yarmouth). — "I see by the Press they are going to alter the Old Age Pension." You must have an eye like a hawk.

"ONE DETAINED IN MESO." (Baghdad—Snapshot shows notice-board at Baghdad recording deaths of "75 British, Russian and Indian prisoners of war, 1916." We hope that the sacred spot will receive fit and proper attention.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A "JOHN BULL" PEN

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 2/3, and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Jan. 3rd, 1920.

P.O.s should be made payable to John Bull Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly, without Drudgery or Failure.

In a few months, with less than half the usual practice, my modern, progress-compelling

Piano Correspondence Lessons

will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading ordinary music, that you shall play with spirit and feeling Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

I guarantee success to any average person.

Adult Beginners need not know a note to start.

Send a card to-day for my illuminating little book,

"MIND, MUSCLE & KEYBOARD."

Read about my System, see what hundreds, of all ages and stages, say it has done for them, and judge for yourself what it can do for you.

A Beginner writes:—"Your last lesson I found very interesting and valuable. I have made steady progress all along, and always look forward to your next lesson."—Rev. G. McG. (E. Greenwich).

A postcard with full address (Mrs., Miss or Mr.) and the word Moderate, Elementary, or Beginner, will bring my book, with form for free advice and opinion, by return

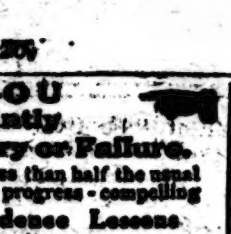
MR. BECKER, 81, Bristol House, Malborn Viaduct, LONDON, E.C. 1.

THINK

—of a Cigarette

made from the Finest Selected Virginia Tobacco, absolutely free from all stalk, veins and impurities—well packed and rolled in paper specially made on scientific lines by the makers of the cigarette—extra large in size—and one that gives a really fine smoke leaving a pleasant reflection—and you have thought of

FANCY DRESS

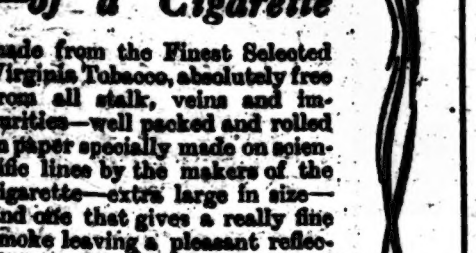


"The Superb Cigarette"

To be obtained from all High-Class Tobacconists and Stores throughout the Kingdom.

Société Job. London

20 for 1/4



Hindes

HAIR TINT FOR GREY OR FADED HAIR.

Tints grey or faded hair any natural shade desired — brown, dark-brown, light-brown or black. It is permanent and washable, has no grease, and does not burn the hair. It is used by over three-quarters of a million people. A Medical Certificate accompanies each bottle. Of all Chemists, Stores, and Hairdressers, 2/6 the Flask, or direct from HINDES Ltd., 1, Tabernacle Street, City, London.

Patentees and Manufacturers of the World-Famous Hindes Waverers.

THE "JOHN BULL" GUARANTEE. *We guarantee the goods advertised by every firm whose trade announcement appears in* JOHN BULL, *i.e., we hold ourselves responsible for their being of the quality and standard represented at the time of purchase and the date of payment, either in full or of first instal ment, and if any reader can show just cause for dissatisfaction with the purchase of any goods made through any trade advertisement in our columns, we will refund the purchase money, provided the goods complained of are sent to us within one week from the date of original purchase. All communications should be addressed to* JOHN BULL, *Advertisement Department, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.*

Gather round the fireside, enjoy the winter evenings—write now and get a

Berkeley EASY CHAIR

There is a world of peaceful rest and enjoyment to be obtained from a Berkeley.

The frame is of great strength, the springs are steel-coppered long, and flexible, and are fixed in the back, seat, and front edge. The upholstery is thorough and the coverings are artistic and will match any scheme of decoration. Value is supreme.

Price £5 : 5 : 0 or 15/- with order and balance 17/6 monthly.

Sold on the Money Back Principle.

Every Berkeley is delivered carriage paid, soon after receipt of the first payment with order, and if not completely satisfactory it may be returned AT OUR EXPENSE, and all money paid will be refunded in full.

FREE Send your name and address on a postcard and we will forward you Post Free full particulars and samples of coverings for your selection.

H. J. SEARLE & SON, LTD.,

Manufacturing Upholsterers.

(Dept. J.B.) 70-78, OLD KENT RD., LONDON, S.E.1

RAINCOATS 33/6

APPRECIATED MOST ON THE WETTEST DAYS.

You buy a Raincoat to keep you dry in wet weather—the wettest weather. If it doesn't do this it is useless.

MANY RAINCOATS ARE USELESS. Ours are not, and the heavier the rain the more you will appreciate a "Fashion-Craft" Raincoat. We guarantee every garment we manufacture, and if you are not satisfied we will refund your money.

"Fashion-Craft" Raincoats are made of fine quality cloth, specially proofed and full check lined, and are designed in many smart styles for Ladies, Gents, Boys and Maids. Each style can be had in light, medium or dark fawn, and every garment is excellently finished.

Write for patterns and latest Style Book No. 59.

All orders are dealt with in strict rotation and are sent carriage paid.

Any style can be had full fleece lined—and a fleece lined Raincoat is warm as an overcoat, lighter in weight—and RAINPROOF. Send for particulars.

FASHION-CRAFT MILLS, LTD.,

REGD. OFFICES: 32, Victoria St., MANCHESTER.

Have You Seen the Pearl Necklace?

which is the 4th Prize in

THE GOLDEN BALLOT

Under the Patronage of Admiral EARL BEATTY, in aid of Settlements for

Disabled Sailors and Soldiers.

(Registered under the War Charities Act)

Tickets 5/- each.

1st Prize, £2,500. 2nd Prize, The Lease of a London House, or £1,600.
3rd Prize, A Motor Car. 4th Prize, A Pearl Necklace. 5th Prize, £500.

Hundreds of other valuable Prizes.

The Pearl Necklace, priced at £900, is now on view at Messrs. Carrington's shop in Regent Street.

Closing Date—April 29th, 1920.

COUPON. Write plainly in ink and cross your postal order. Letters to be addressed to Mrs. C. P. LEVEL (Desk 21), 9, Marble Arch, London, W.1.

Please post to me ..... tickets for the Golden Ballot, for which I enclose P.O. value .....

Name (in full) .....

Address.....

.....

THE GREAT BRAIN FOOD.

BRAININE

The Only Cure for Brain Fag.

It is a great vitaliser. It builds up, through the brain, the whole nerve system. It makes work a pleasure. It

Solves the Drug Problem.

It is free from strychnine or any poisonous ingredient. It is no quack preparation. It is made up from the prescription of a great Brain Specialist. It is

Strongly recommended by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

It is sold in tubes at 1/3 and 3/- To be obtained at the Army and Navy Stores, Boots, and all leading Chemists; or direct, post free, from—

BRAININE 35, Buckingham Gate, LONDON, S.W.

SMALL ADS. WORTH WATCHING

(Prepaid, 12/6 per line, minimum 2 lines).

POST'S C.B.Q. TABLETS, the tried and true remedy for Rheumatism, Sciatica, Gout, etc. Result of life-long medical experience. Act at the Root—give permanent relief. Contain no injurious ingredients. Price 2/- and 5/6 post free. Send for Free Booklet from A. E. Post & Co., Dept. 2, 22, Week St., Maidstone.

RIBBON BARS—patent non-sewn, General Service and Victory, or any two Ribbons 9d., three Ribbons 1/-, post free, full size or miniature.—W. O. Lewis, 37, Howard St., BIRMINGHAM.

KITCHEN CLOTHS.—UNBLEACHED UNION LINEN KITCHEN CLOTHS, strong, heavy make, lettered "Kitchen Cloth," size 22 by 29 inches, 6 for 5s., 12 for 17s. 6d., postage 9d.—HUTTON'S, 138, Larne, Ireland.

GOOD SPARE-TIME AGENCY.—Applications invited from respectable working man in regular employment to supply Boots, Suits, Drapery, Watches and Jewellery for cash or credit. Liberal supply of samples. Commission, highest paid.—Apply Freeman, Contractors H.M. Govt., Lavender Hill, London.

BEST and CHEAPEST Wholesale Warehouse for Beginners, Remnants, Drapery, Readymades, Travellers Samples. Send for Catalogue free.—Cochrane's Warehouse, 1, Victoria Bridge, Manchester.

BOOTS.—4s. saved. Buy Direct from our Northampton Factory. Send postcard for catalogue. Gents', Ladies' and Children's Boots.—John Emmet, Ltd., Dept. 7, Northampton.

HARRIS Tweeds, direct from Scotland, genuine hand made hard-wearing, all wool tweed, direct from weaver to wearer, 11s. 6d. a yard; selected patterns post free.—A. Driver, 34, Ainess, Ross-shire, N.B.

TWILIGHT SLEEP NURSING HOMES, LTD., Bushey Lodge, Teddington, Middlesex. Resident Physician. Write for booklet, Lady Secretary (Office 21).

THE PILL THAT WON THE WAR.—Lockwood's Invaluable Remedy for constipation. PRICE ONE SHILLING AND THREEPENCE PER BOX, POST FREE. Lester Lockwood, Ltd., 94, Cannon St., London, E.C.4.

GERAUDELS PASTILLES for Cough, Bronchitis, Sore Throat. Half a century reputation. Boots and all chemists.

STAINLESS CUTLERY, straight from Sheffield, keen steel blades, white Xylonite handles. Always bright without cleaning. Dessert Knives, 7 for 21/-. Table Knives, 6 for 24/6.—Post free from Parker & Co., 261, London Road, Sheffield.

PEDIGREE SEEDS.—Scotch Potatoes, Bulbs, Tools, etc. Reliable quality, reasonable prices. 44-page catalogue free.—Ellison's, West Bromwich. Est. 1810.

HARRIS Tweed, direct from Scotland, genuine hand made, all wool, from weaver to wearer, best obtainable quality, 11/6 per yard; patterns post free.—Mrs. Morrison (Dept. 30), 56, Eastgate, Inverness.

£200-£400 a year for Certificated Bookkeepers—Postal tuition; 5s. monthly, including books; success guaranteed at 3 advanced examinations; prospectus, testimonials from prosperous past students, &c., free on application. City Correspondence College (Dept. 9), 26, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

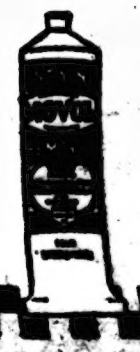
EX-SERVICE MEN AND OTHERS.—Profitable employment in your own town (whole or part time), particulars free. Wren Supply Co., West Didsbury, Manchester.

Stains? Forget them!

Stained linen can easily be restored to snow-white purity. Apply a touch of Movol to the stain, and in a few minutes the stain disappears before your eyes.

MOVOL STAIN REMOVER

Removes Ironmould, Rust, Fruit and Ink Stains from Clothing, Marble, &c.



The directions given with each tube must be carefully followed.

From Chemists, Grocers, Stores, etc., in 1/- and 6d. tubes. If unable to obtain, send 1/2 for large trial tube, to

W. EDGE & SONS, Ltd., Bolton.

'BULLETS' £250 'BULLETS'

2ND PRIZE £20 — **1ST PRIZE** — **3RD PRIZE £10** — **1ST PRIZE**

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2:10	25 PRIZES OF 10s	200 PRIZES OF 5s.	1,000 PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.	3,000 "TARGET" PRIZES.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the Thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you: Example:—DISMAL FAILURE. Bullet:—KILLJOYS AT CHRISTMAS. Example:—SILENT WIFE. Bullet:—NOT THE MORNING AFTER. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent.—Result of this Competition will be found in our issue dated Jan 24th.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 359.

THE NEW YEAR	THE PRESENT TIME	PLAYING AWAY	SILENT WIFE
PRINCIPAL BOY	PARTING FRIENDS	OUR PRINCE	IN HIGH SOCIETY
WHAT LABOUR WOULD LIKE	BIG DEMAND	MAN WANTED	DISMAL FAILURE
TURNING OVER NEW LEAF	PERFECT LADY	LOOKING FOR WORK	CHANGING HIS ARM
WHAT BOTTOMLEY KNOWS	NEXT ELECTION	TRYING TIMES	GOOD DRINK
ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT	MUDDLING	DOWN AND OUT	UNEXPECTED
FOUND OUT TOO LATE	BOUNCING BABY	HOWLING SUCCESS	SORRY FATHER
NEVER TROUBLES ME	AFTER THE CUP	SLEEPING PARTNER	AFTER CHRISTMAS

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8th.
Example ____
Bullet ____
Example ____
Bullet ____
(359) P.O. No. ____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.
Signed ____
Address ____

IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8th.
Example ____
Bullet ____
Example ____
Bullet ____
(359) P.O. No. ____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.
Signed ____
Address ____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 359. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8th.
Example ____
Bullet ____
Example ____
Bullet ____
(359) P.O. No. ____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.
Signed ____
Address ____

No. ____ Closing Date, Thursday, January 8th.
Example ____
Bullet ____
Example ____
Bullet ____
(359) P.O. No. ____
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If 4 coupons are used P.O for 2/- must be sent.
Signed ____
Address ____

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 360.

STARTING—NEW YEAR—MADE IN GERMANY—NOT WORTH MUCH—CLEARING AWAY—PARTING—IN AND OUT—HUSBY'S MISTAKE—ON PLEASURE BENT—ASK BOTTOMLEY—A PRETTY PAIR—READY CASH—SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED—CATCH OF THE SEASON—NOT NEEDED NOW—PRINCIPAL GIRL—LOOKING FOR MAID—WON'T DO—WHAT PUZZLES ME—TOMMY'S SURPRISE—MY WIFE SAYS.

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, Jan. 15th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **360** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets" No. 360, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty-two examples for Competition 360.

List of 10s. Prizewinners in "Bullets" Competition 358 will be published in next week's "Competitors' Journal." Complete List of all Cash and Other Prizewinners can be seen at the Offices of "John Bull."

Result of 356th 'Bullets' Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £1,000:
Mr. WILLIAM H. COX,
The Gardens, Courtlands, Lympstone, S. Devon.
Example:—THE RIGHT SHOP.
Bullet:—SATISFACTION BOTH SIDES COUNTER.

SECOND PRIZE OF £100:
Mr. JOHN CORNWALL,
c/o Miss Page, 1, St. James's St., Bath.
Example: A BAD LAD.
Bullet:—DEVELOPS "CLASS HATRED" EARLY.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:
Mrs. ADA TUCKER,
51, Park St., Bootle, Liverpool.
Example:—WHAT NATION WANTS.
Bullet:—"LESS" HIGHLY PAID OFFICIALS.

10 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:
MRS. L. GOODWIN, 7, Victoria Rd., Mill Hill, N.W.:
UNPAID BILL — ISN'T SPOILING GERMANY'S "DREAMS."
MR. W. CHURCHER, 73, Bentham Rd., S. Hackney:
VERY SIMPLE—FARMERS, ONLY IN APPEARANCE.
MR W. LIVINGSTONE, Salisbury Gdns., Belfast:
WHAT'S WRONG—"NOBODY CARES" NOWADAYS.
MR. H. PALMER, 9, Up. Gwydir St., Cambridge:
JOE BECKETT—LONG TRAIN, SHORT JOURNEY.
MRS. G. RAYNER, 59, Judge St., Watford:
WORKERS—WORST SHORTAGE SINCE WAR.
MR. E. H. BROWNE, 87, St. Andrew's Rd., Southampton:
BIG FIGHT—BOUND FOR NATION'S "PURSE."
MR. T. E. YOUNG, 13, Gordon St., Amble, Acklington:
NATIONAL DEBT—LARGE—AND STILL WORSE.
MR. L. HEWARD, 899, Stratford Rd., Birmingham:
ALWAYS TOO LATE—TO OVERTAKE PRICES—WAGES
(Sent in on a free "Target" Prize Coupon.)
MRS. DANIELS, 11, Cadbury Rd., Moseley, B'ham:
THE RIGHT SHOP—FURNITURE, IS RIGHT GIRL.
MR G. BLAIR, 123, Oxford St., Barrow-in-Furness:
DIVORCED—TWO "HOMES," ONE "AWAY."

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:
MR. I. JONES, Paris House, High Street, Bethesda, N.W.:
WON'T HASTEN AGAIN — LIFE CHEAPER THAN LABOUR.
MR. C. JONES, 19, Hythe Quay, Colchester:
WORKERS—"NOT THEMSELVES"—WHEN STRIKING.
MRS. E. ROBERTS, "Tynlon," Treborth, Bangor:
MORE WHISKEY—THE WRONG "PUBLIC" GETS.
MR. T. JOHNSON, 23, New St., Brightlingsea:
ON THE JAW—GERMANY STILL AFTER "KNOCK-OUT."
MR. E. H. LEES, 2, Buncracleaves, Ilfracombe:
NATIONAL DEBT—VERY MUCH—LIKE GERMANY'S.
MR. J. FENNEY, 66, Vaughan St., Middlesbrough:
PRETTY MAID — "LOOKS ANYTHING," BUT DANGEROUS.
MR. W. YARD, 13, Abingdon St., Burnham-on-Sea:
LOWER PRICES—VOICED, BUT SELDOM INVOICED.
MRS. E. GORTON, 27, King William St., Coventry:
UNPAID BILL—WAR RISK ALLIES OVERLOOKED.
MRS. M. PALMER, 7, Arcade, Okehampton:
NATIONAL DEBT — THE "RISING" BRITISHER FEARS.
MR. J. WOODFIELD, Port Talbot Steel Co., Port Talbot:
MORE WHISKEY—AND FRUMP SEEMS VENUS.

BULLETS RULES. 1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. All four coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ____ and Co. ____ Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

THE JOHN BULL GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE
COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER secured about 100 sq. of to can be insured irrespective of pre... The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company, in addition to the... would certainly exceed 5s. per square foot. ... is your allowance free.

We have made our language as simple and comprehensive as possible, and there is no bother about any "Proof of Possession" or "Proof of Loss." Claims will be paid in the registered robbery. Why pay premiums when the cost per sq. ft. is so small? Insure thereon, and in no case more.

A complete coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Wales and South Wales.

The full conditions governing this offer will be published in the next issue of "John Bull."

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to Contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire of your insured Resident's Home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye ...	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries and paying total loss (compensating the injured person from following his or her employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 12 weeks ...	£1 per week

CLOSE FORM
To be Returned by Registered

To .....
Newsagent

Please deliver "JOHN BULL" to me regularly until further notice

Signed .....

Address .....

Jan. 3, 1920.

You must also fill in the Registration Form which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL (Insurance Dept.), Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM
Which must be filled in—
JOHN BULL (INSURANCE DEPT.), Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....
and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being destroyed, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death—

Name of Nominee .....

Address .....

Signature of Insured .....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)
Home Address .....

Jan. 3, 1920.

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Persons 16, above 55 or subscribing at receipt of Registration Form is required.

Great One-Week Cup-Tie Competition

SPECIAL CUP-TIE PRIZE

£500

SPECIAL CUP-TIE PRIZE

MUST BE WON!

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

OR NEXT LARGEST NUMBER OF WINNING TEAMS IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE F.A. CUP

— TO BE PLAYED ON JANUARY 10TH., 1920

This week—and for this week only—we are making a special Cup-tie offer. The sum of £500 will be paid to the sender of any ten winning teams selected from those taking part in the Cup ties given on the coupon below. Should no competitor succeed in giving ten winning teams, the prize of £500 will be awarded to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams. Remember this competition is open for THIS WEEK ONLY, and coupons can only be taken from this week's issue. £500 MUST BE WON THIS WEEK, SO SEND IN YOUR COUPON WITHOUT DELAY.

GREAT ONE-WEEK COMPETITION — NO ENTRANCE FEE!

BIGGEST MUST-BE-WON PRIZE OFFERED BY ANY PAPER.

£4,050 ALREADY PAID OUT.
LARGEST AMOUNT IN FOOTBALL PRIZES AWARDED THIS SEASON BY ANY PAPER
£500 MUST BE WON THIS WEEK.
IT MAY BE YOUR TURN TO WIN IT.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL"
and Coupons do not appear in any other paper.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH READERS MAY COMPETE

Cut out coupon neatly and address all entries as follows:—"Football Competition No. 17, JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but not with entries for other competitions.

SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

This competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. A careful study of football form should be made before filling in coupons. The "National News" gives the best and most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should prove of great assistance to intending competitors.

Read these Rules Carefully.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this competition. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and must be filled up in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £500 (Five Hundred Pounds) will be paid to the sender of a coupon giving any ten winning teams from amongst those playing on January 10th, given on the coupon on this page and as set out on that coupon. If no competitor succeeds in giving ten winning teams the prize of £500 will be paid to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams as described above. If two or more competitors succeed in giving ten winning teams, or failing that, succeed in sending the next largest number of winning teams, the £500 will be divided equally amongst them.

(3) Should any match not be played to a finish on the date given or as set out on the coupon, it will be disregarded, and winning teams from the remaining fixtures only will be allowed to count.

(4) Any coupon which has marked upon it more than ten Xs or less than ten Xs will be disqualified.

(5) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(6) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(7) Our employees are debarred from entering the competition.

(8) Any coupons received later than first post on January 8th will be disqualified.

(9) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

READ THIS FIRST

If you think the "Home" team will win put a X in the left-hand column headed "Home Win"; if you think the "Away" team will win put a X in the right-hand column headed "Away Win." Only ten teams must be marked in all. **If more or less than ten X's appear on any one coupon it will be disqualified. Coupons MUST be written in ink.**

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, January 10th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, January 8th.

Home Win	Home Team		Away Team	Away Win
	Aston Villa	v.	Queen's Park Rangers	
	Birmingham	v.	Everton	
	Blackpool	v.	Derby County	
	Bolton Wanderers	v.	Chelsea	
	Bradford City	v.	Portsmouth	
	Bradford	v.	Notts Forest	
	Bury	v.	Stoke	
	Cardiff City	v.	Oldham Athletic	
	Darlington	v.	Sheffield Wednesday	
	Fulham	v.	Swindon Town	
	Grimsby Town	v.	Bristol City	
	Huddersfield Town	v.	Brentford	
	Newport County	v.	Leicester City	
	Plymouth Argyle	v.	Reading	
	Southampton	v.	West Ham	
	South Shields	v.	Liverpool	

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

17 ADDRESS.....

.....

For Result of Football Competition No. 14 see page 12.

JOHN BULL

The Best Remedy

Owbridge's

Lung Tonic

for

COUGHS & COLDS

Ask for "Owbridge" and take no substitute.

Prepared by

W. T. OWBRIDGE Ltd.

Manufacturers, The Laboratories, Hull.

Established 1874.

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